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Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Jerry Matthews Matjila (South Africa), on the basis of informal consultations

Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, and recalling other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming also the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance, and the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies, protracted crises and natural disasters to promote and fully respect those principles,

Recalling its decision 2018/212 of 4 April 2018, in which it decided that the theme for the humanitarian affairs segment of its 2018 session would be "Restoring humanity, respecting human dignity and leaving no one behind: working together to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability" and that it would convene three panel discussions under the segment,

Expressing deep concern at the increasing challenges to Member States, the United Nations and their capacity caused by the impact of climate change, the ongoing consequences of the financial and economic crisis, regional food crises, continuing food and energy insecurity, water scarcity, health emergencies and epidemic outbreaks, natural hazards and environmental degradation, which are adding to underdevelopment, poverty and inequality and are increasing the vulnerability of people while reducing their ability to cope with humanitarian crises, emphasizing the need for resources for disaster risk reduction, preparedness and humanitarian assistance, including in developing countries, to be provided efficiently and effectively, and emphasizing also the need for development and humanitarian actors to work better together to strengthen resilience, including urban resilience, in terms of prevention, preparedness and response,

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Expressing grave concern at the unprecedented number of people affected and displaced by humanitarian emergencies, including frequently protracted displacement resulting from humanitarian emergencies, which are increasing in number, scale and severity and are stretching humanitarian response capacities, recognizing the need for burden-sharing, and noting with appreciation efforts at the national and international levels that promote national capacity-building to address complex challenges in this regard,

Recognizing that developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, remain acutely vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change as well as the effects of El Niño and La Niña, environmental degradation and human and economic loss resulting from natural hazards, and recognizing also the need for international cooperation, as appropriate, to develop and strengthen their resilience in this regard, including the exchange of information, experiences and best practices among countries,

Noting the need for increased awareness of the international community regarding the issue of internal displacement worldwide, including the situation of millions living in protracted situations of displacement, and the urgency of providing adequate humanitarian assistance to and protection for internally displaced persons, supporting host communities, addressing the root causes of displacement, finding durable solutions for internally displaced persons in their countries and addressing possible obstacles in this regard, wherein the national authorities have the primary duty and responsibility to provide protection and humanitarian assistance and promote durable solutions for internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, bearing in mind their particular needs, and recognizing that durable solutions include voluntary return in safety and with dignity, as well as voluntary local integration in the areas to which persons have been displaced or voluntary settlement in another part of the country, without prejudice to the right of internally displaced persons to leave their country or to seek asylum,

Recognizing the critical role of host countries and communities, especially developing countries, in addressing the needs of affected populations in humanitarian emergencies, and reiterating the need for timely and coordinated support from the international community to hosts and affected countries to strengthen their development and resilience,

Recognizing also the important and positive role of youth in humanitarian assistance and the need to engage them in response efforts,

Recalling the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[1] and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977,[2] and the obligation to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in all circumstances, and the obligation of all parties to armed conflict to comply strictly with the obligations applicable to them under international humanitarian law,

Recalling also the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977 and 2005,[3] as applicable, as well as relevant customary international law concerned with the protection of the wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, and the obligation of parties to armed conflict to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in all circumstances, and noting the applicable rules of international

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[2] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

[3] Ibid., vol. 2404, No. 43425.

humanitarian law relating to the non-punishment of any person for carrying out medical activities compatible with medical ethics,

Strongly condemning all attacks, threats and other acts of violence against the wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport, equipment and supplies, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, and deploring the long-term consequences of such attacks for the civilian population and the health-care systems of the countries concerned,

Strongly condemning also all attacks, threats and other acts of violence against humanitarian personnel, their facilities, equipment, transports and supplies, and expressing deep concern about the consequences of such attacks for the provision of humanitarian assistance to affected populations,

Recognizing the primary role of Member States in preparing for and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease, including those that result in humanitarian crises, highlighting the critical role played by Member States, the World Health Organization as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work, in line with the International Health Regulations (2005) adopted by the World Health Assembly,[4] the United Nations humanitarian system, relevant international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other humanitarian actors in providing financial, technical and in-kind support in order to bring epidemics or pandemics under control, and recognizing also the need to strengthen local and national health systems, early reporting and early warning systems, preparedness, cross-sectoral response capacities, and resilience linked to outbreaks of infectious disease, including through capacity-building for developing countries,

Noting with grave concern that children and youth continue to lack inclusive and equitable quality education and safe school environments in situations of humanitarian emergencies, recognizing that the impact of humanitarian emergencies on education presents humanitarian and development challenges, emphasizing the urgent need for increased financing and more efficient delivery of quality education in humanitarian emergencies, as a contribution towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all, including early childhood education, as well as tertiary education, skills training and vocational education, and in this regard reaffirming that education should pursue a contribution to peace and can act as a catalyst for recovery and rebuilding,

Recognizing that quality education can mitigate the psychosocial impacts of armed conflicts and natural disasters by providing a sense of normalcy, stability, structure and hope for the future, and in this regard emphasizing the important role that education can also play in supporting efforts in emergency situations to prevent and mitigate the impacts of all acts of violence and abuse,

Expressing deep concern at all acts of sexual and gender-based violence, and noting with great concern that violence, including sexual and gender-based violence and violence against children, continues to be deliberately directed against civilian populations in emergency situations and that civilians are the main victims of violations of international humanitarian law committed by parties to armed conflict,

Affirming the need for effective implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[5] emphasizing that building and strengthening

[4] World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1, resolution 58.3, annex.

[5] General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

resilience at the local, national and regional levels is critical to reducing the risk and the impact of disasters and vulnerabilities to hazards, and in this regard, while recognizing that building resilience, including through disaster preparedness, is a multidimensional process including both humanitarian and development actors in support of long-term development, stressing the need for enhanced investment in building national and local capacities for preparedness, prevention, mitigation and response, particularly in developing countries, as well as investment in building regional capacities,

Recognizing, in this regard, the particular importance of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[6]

Recognizing also the clear relationship between emergency response, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, and reaffirming that, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, emergency assistance will be provided in ways that will be supportive of recovery and long-term development and that emergency measures should be accompanied by development measures as a step towards the sustainable development of affected States, and in this regard highlighting the importance of closer cooperation between national stakeholders, including the private sector, as appropriate, and humanitarian and development actors,

Recognizing further that a cooperative and complementary framework between humanitarian and development approaches is imperative to build resilience,

Encouraging closer cooperation between development and humanitarian actors, in coordination with Member States, to ensure that all relevant actors work together, in accordance with their mandates, towards common results with the aim of reducing need, vulnerability and risk over multiple years, based on shared understanding of the context and each actor's operational strengths, in support of national priorities, while fully respecting the importance of humanitarian principles for humanitarian action,

Recognizing that humanitarian emergencies may disproportionately affect women and girls and that it is essential to ensure that women are empowered to effectively and meaningfully participate in leadership and decision-making processes relevant to such emergencies, that the specific needs and interests of women and girls, including for education and health, are identified and safely and adequately addressed in strategies and responses, as appropriate, and that the rights of women and girls are promoted and protected in humanitarian emergencies,

Reaffirming that the specific needs and priorities, as well as capacities, of women, girls, men and boys of different ages should be identified, responded to and mainstreamed into humanitarian assistance programming at all stages in a comprehensive and consistent manner, recognizing that in humanitarian emergencies, there are specific and heightened risks to their safety, health and well-being,

Recognizing the risks that older persons face in humanitarian emergencies, that they have years of knowledge, skills and wisdom, which are invaluable assets to reduce disaster risk, and that they should be included in the design of policies, plans and mechanisms, including for early warning, for disaster risk reduction,

Recognizing that, in humanitarian emergencies, persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected and face multiple obstacles in accessing humanitarian assistance, recognizing also the need to make humanitarian action inclusive of persons with disabilities, in this regard stressing the importance of ensuring non-discrimination, meaningful participation in decision-making processes, as well as cooperation and coordination in the provision of assistance to ensure that their

[6] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

needs are addressed, and in this regard recalling the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action,

Reiterating the need for Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to improve accountability at all levels to the needs of affected populations, and recognizing the importance of inclusive participation in decision-making,

Recognizing that Member States and the United Nations system need to continue their work through, inter alia, strengthening partnerships at all levels with relevant stakeholders, including regional organizations, civil society and the private sector, as appropriate, in support of national efforts, while ensuring that their collaborative efforts adhere to humanitarian principles,

Stressing the need for Member States, the United Nations and relevant stakeholders to work together to reduce the specific needs of the most vulnerable, thereby contributing to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[7] including the call to leave no one behind,

Recognizing that inclusive economic growth and sustainable development are essential for the prevention of and preparedness for natural disasters and other emergencies,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets and reaffirmed its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions,

Reaffirming further the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, held on 19 September 2016,[8] and acknowledging the need for participation in the processes leading up to the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, as well as the global compact on refugees, and reaffirming the comprehensive refugee response framework, as outlined in annex I to the New York Declaration, as an important approach to ensure a more predictable and sustainable response to large movements of refugees, and welcoming its practical application,

Noting with great concern that millions of people are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine or are experiencing severe food insecurity in several regions of the world, and noting that armed conflicts, drought, poverty and volatility of commodity prices are among the factors causing or exacerbating famine and severe

[7] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

[8] General Assembly resolution 71/1.

food insecurity and that additional efforts, including international support, are urgently needed to address this,

Recognizing that investing, when possible, in risk-informed and responsive social protection systems, protecting livelihoods and providing emergency agriculture support are crucial to saving lives,

Stressing that the international community should provide, in a coordinated manner, support for national and regional efforts by providing the assistance necessary to increase food production and access to healthy and nutritious food and its utilization, while fully respecting the importance of humanitarian principles for humanitarian assistance,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[9]

2. *Encourages* United Nations humanitarian organizations and other relevant organizations, while strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the field, to continue to work in close coordination with national Governments, taking into account the primary role of the affected State in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of such assistance within its territory;

3. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to strengthen coordination, preparedness and response efforts and to improve the quality and effectiveness of humanitarian action, including through enhancing complementarity with and between relevant stakeholders, such as affected Governments, regional organizations, donors, development organizations, civil society and the private sector, involved in response efforts to make use of their comparative advantages and resources;

4. *Stresses* that the United Nations system should continue to enhance and improve the efficiency of existing humanitarian capacities, knowledge and institutions, including, as appropriate, through the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and expertise to developing countries, encourages the international community, the relevant entities of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions and organizations to support national authorities in their capacity-building programmes, including through technical cooperation and long-term partnerships, as well as by strengthening their capacity to build resilience, mitigate disaster risks, prepare for and respond to disasters and reduce the risk of displacement within the context of disasters, and encourages Member States to create and strengthen an enabling environment for the capacity-building of their national and local authorities, national societies of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and national and local non-governmental and community-based organizations in providing timely humanitarian assistance;

5. *Encourages* humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant actors, as appropriate, in consultation with Governments, to consider, where possible, common objectives, including risk-management and resilience objectives, achievable through coordinated and complementary assessments, analysis, and multi-year planning and programming and funding and increased investment in preparedness, based on a prioritization of needs and conducted in line with humanitarian principles, in order to reduce suffering and losses and the overall impact of humanitarian crises, and in this regard emphasizes that, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to longer-term development, humanitarian response, particularly in protracted crises, needs to be planned over a multi-year framework, as appropriate, and linked with development planning processes, while integrating key stakeholders, such as Governments, regional organizations and international financial institutions, as appropriate;

[9] A/73/78-E/2018/54.

6. *Encourages* humanitarian and development organizations to consider applying, in coordination with national authorities, risk-management tools in order to allow for better use of baseline information and risk analysis, including analysis of the underlying causes of crises, the different vulnerabilities of countries and regions and the risk exposures of affected populations, and in this regard notes the further development of established tools and innovative mechanisms, such as through the introduction of forecast-based financing mechanisms, networking of disaster risk reduction centres, comprehensive preparedness measures and the Index for Risk Management, to include more data disaggregated by sex, age and disability, and information regarding national and regional contexts, taking into account the environmental impact;

7. *Urges* United Nations agencies and international organizations, in their humanitarian assistance efforts, to continue to improve the humanitarian programme cycle, including the development and more consistent use of coordinated and comprehensive needs assessment tools, such as multisector initial rapid assessments, the implementation of joint, impartial and timely needs assessments, and prioritized needs-based humanitarian response plans, in consultation with affected States, and in order to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian action encourages international humanitarian organizations and relevant actors to continue to work with national and local authorities as well as with civil society and affected populations, and recognizes the role of affected communities in identifying urgent needs and requirements in order to ensure an efficient response;

8. *Stresses* the need for the effective implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 through, inter alia, disaster risk-informed policies, programmes and investments, and other proactive measures that aim to prevent new and reduce existing risk, in order to minimize humanitarian needs, and underlines the importance of tackling the underlying disaster risk drivers, of considering the impact of climate change and of integrating a disaster risk reduction perspective into preparedness, response and recovery efforts to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk;

9. *Encourages* Member States, as well as relevant regional and international organizations, in accordance with their specific mandates, to continue to support adaptation to and mitigation of climate change and to strengthen disaster risk reduction and multi-hazard early warning systems in order to minimize the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, including those related to the continuing adverse impact of climate change and other causes of natural disasters, such as extreme weather events and seismic activity, especially for those countries that are particularly vulnerable, thereby also contributing to the achievement of sustainable development goals, and calls upon all relevant stakeholders to continue to support the efforts of Member States, in particular developing countries, to strengthen their capacities to prepare for and respond to disasters, and to identify and monitor disaster risk, including vulnerability to natural hazards;

10. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen international cooperation to prevent, reduce and address sustainably vulnerabilities related to climate change and natural disasters, particularly with least developed countries and small island developing States and their communities;

11. *Urges* Member States, humanitarian and development organizations and other stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive and coherent approach at the global, regional, national and local levels to El Niño and La Niña phenomena and similar or related events, including by strengthening forecasting, early warning, prevention, preparedness, resilience-building and timely response, supported by effective leadership and predictable, adequate and early funding, when feasible, in regions,

countries and communities likely to be affected, and notes the work of the Special Envoys of the Secretary-General on El Niño and Climate and the blueprint for action prepared by them, and the standard operating procedures for El Niño/Southern Oscillation events of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

12. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, to continue to support multi-hazard early warning systems and early action efforts, including through forecast-based financing at the global, regional and national levels, climate services, exposure and vulnerability mapping, new technologies and communication protocols, as well as incorporating climate resilience in early action and increasing response preparedness, so that persons in vulnerable situations who are exposed to natural hazards, including in geographically remote locations, receive timely, reliable, accurate and actionable early warning information to take early action, and encourages the international community to further support, as appropriate, national efforts in this regard;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General in his next report on the present resolution to provide an update on the use of anticipatory financing approaches for humanitarian emergencies and to consider further efforts by the United Nations humanitarian system and other relevant stakeholders in this regard;

14. *Urges* the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to further strengthen their efforts in supporting national Governments in mapping emergency preparedness and response capacities at the country and regional levels, in order to better facilitate the complementarity of disaster response efforts between national and international capacities, and in this regard encourages Member States to promote, as appropriate, the implementation of the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance and to integrate risk management into national development plans;

15. *Requests* Member States, relevant organizations and other relevant actors to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all stages of humanitarian response through addressing the specific needs, challenges and coping capacities of women, girls, men and boys on an equal basis, taking into consideration age and disability, including through the improved collection, analysis, reporting and use of data[a] disaggregated by sex, age and disability, and taking into account information provided by affected States, and to ensure the full participation of women in decision-making processes in order to increase the effectiveness of humanitarian action, and encourages greater utilization of the gender marker and other tools, including age-sensitive tools, throughout the humanitarian programme cycle;

16. *Recognizes* the critical role that women can play as first responders, and encourages Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations, to promote women's leadership and their participation in the planning, design and implementation of response strategies, including through strengthening partnerships with and building capacities of national and local institutions, including national and local women's organizations and civil society actors, as appropriate, and by further promoting gender-responsive humanitarian programming;

17. *Urges* Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations and other humanitarian organizations, to ensure reliable and safe access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, as well as basic health-care services and psychosocial support, from the onset of emergencies, and in this regard recognizes that relevant services are important in order to effectively meet the needs of women and adolescent girls and infants and protect them from preventable mortality and morbidity that occur in humanitarian emergencies;

18. *Urges* Member States to continue to prevent, investigate and, as appropriate, prosecute acts of sexual and gender-based violence, while ensuring the safety of victims, in humanitarian emergencies, and calls upon Member States to strengthen their response in cooperation with relevant organizations, such as local women's organizations as appropriate, from the onset of an emergency including by seeking to ensure meaningful access to quality medical, legal, psychosocial and livelihood services, for all victims, survivors and those affected by such violence — according to the specific needs of women, men, girls and boys — and working to ensure that humanitarian assistance is provided in a way that mitigates the risk of sexual and gender-based violence, calls upon Member States and relevant organizations to improve coordination and strengthen capacity, and in this regard urges all relevant stakeholders to consider engaging in this area, including through prevention, mitigation and response measures, and encourages Member States to make better use of existing data collection mechanisms;

19. *Urges* Member States to continue to seek to prevent, respond to, investigate and prosecute violations and abuses against children in humanitarian emergencies, calls upon Member States and relevant organizations to strengthen support services for children affected by humanitarian emergencies, including those who have experienced violations and abuses, and calls for a more effective response in that regard, guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child;[10]

20. *Underscores* that it is critically important for civilians, in particular women and children, to be protected from any form of abuse or exploitation, including trafficking in persons, and to have appropriate assistance, welcomes the determination of the Secretary-General to fully implement the United Nations policy of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse, throughout the system, stresses that victims should be at the core of such efforts, and encourages Member States to make greater efforts to prevent exploitation and abuse and to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable;

21. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian organizations to involve persons with disabilities in all processes, consultations and stages of decision-making in humanitarian preparedness and response, to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, to provide timely and appropriate reintegration and rehabilitation assistance to persons with disabilities while ensuring that their specific needs are addressed, such as access to health-care services, psychosocial support and educational programmes, and to prevent abuse and exploitation against them;

22. *Recognizes* that humanitarian emergencies weaken the ability of social services, including health systems, to deliver essential life-saving assistance, and produce setbacks in health development, and also recognizes that resilient health systems can reduce the impact of disasters, and stresses the need to build resilient health systems at the national, regional and global levels, especially capacity-building, in particular for developing countries, calls upon the World Health Organization, the United Nations humanitarian system, other humanitarian organizations and other relevant actors to further strengthen their cooperation and coordination and response capacities so as to assist Member States, upon request, in effectively responding to outbreaks of infectious diseases and emergencies with health consequences in humanitarian settings, in conformity with the International Health Regulations (2005) adopted by the World Health Assembly ensuring that

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

humanitarian assistance does not unintentionally weaken health systems, and takes note of the level 3 activation procedure for infectious disease events;

23. *Stresses* the need to foster global preparedness and support the development of measures, including rapid response mechanisms, to respond to health emergencies, and urges Member States to increase their efforts to strengthen global response capacities;

24. *Encourages* Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations, to ensure that the basic humanitarian needs of affected populations, including clean water, food, shelter, energy, health, including sexual and reproductive health, nutrition, including school feeding programmes, education and protection, are addressed as components of humanitarian response, including through providing timely and adequate resources, while ensuring that their collaborative efforts fully adhere to humanitarian principles;

25. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations, humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant actors to urgently and effectively respond to, prevent and prepare for rising global food insecurity affecting millions of people, especially those who are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine, including by enhancing humanitarian and development cooperation and providing urgent funding to respond to the needs of the affected population, and calls upon Member States and parties to armed conflicts to respect international humanitarian law and ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access;

26. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to continue to work together to understand and address the different protection needs of affected populations, particularly the most vulnerable, in humanitarian crises and ensure that these needs are adequately integrated into preparedness, response and recovery efforts;

27. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all States and parties to an armed conflict to protect civilians, in accordance with international humanitarian law, encourages States that are parties to an armed conflict to take all measures necessary to enhance the protection of civilians, and invites all States to promote a culture of protection, taking into account the particular needs of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

28. *Urges* Member States to continue to take the steps necessary to ensure the protection of the wounded and sick, as well as the safety and security of medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their facilities, equipment, transports and supplies, including by developing effective measures to prevent and address acts of violence, attacks and threats against them, and in this regard reaffirms the need for States to ensure that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law do not operate with impunity, and urges States to conduct full, prompt, impartial and effective investigations within their jurisdiction of violations of international humanitarian law with a view to ensuring accountability, as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

29. *Also urges* Member States to continue to take the steps necessary to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, their facilities, equipment, transports and supplies, including by developing effective measures to prevent and address acts of violence, attacks and threats against them, requests the Secretary-General to expedite his efforts to enhance the safety and security of personnel involved in United Nations humanitarian operations, and in this regard reaffirms the need for States to ensure that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law do not operate with impunity, and urges States to conduct, full, prompt, impartial and effective investigations within their jurisdiction

of violations of international humanitarian law with a view to ensuring accountability, as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

30. *Condemns in the strongest possible terms* the alarming increase in threats to and deliberate targeting of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, acts of terrorism and attacks on humanitarian convoys, and the unprecedented increase in the scale and the increasingly complex nature of threats faced by such personnel, such as the disturbing trend of politically and criminally motivated attacks, including extremist attacks, against them;

31. *Reaffirms* the right to education for all, and also reaffirms the importance of ensuring safe enabling learning environments in humanitarian emergencies, as well as quality education at all levels and ages, inter alia, for girls, including technical and vocational training opportunities, where possible, including through adequate funding and infrastructural investments, for the well-being of all, to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development, and in this regard reiterates the need to protect and respect educational facilities in accordance with international humanitarian law and strongly condemns all attacks directed against schools and the use of schools for military purposes in contravention of international humanitarian law;

32. *Calls upon* Member States to take steps to ensure the international protection of and respect for the rights of refugees, including respect for the principle of non-refoulement and adequate standards of treatment in accordance with international law, including, as applicable, the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[11] and international human rights obligations;

33. *Takes note* of the implementation of the comprehensive refugee response framework in 13 countries and two regional contexts to address the large movement of refugees and protracted refugee situation;

34. *Requests* Member States to strengthen their efforts to ensure better protection of, assistance for as well as self-reliance and resilience of internally displaced persons, including through appropriate cooperation with United Nations organizations and other relevant actors, including the private sector and international financial institutions, in particular to address the long-term nature of displacement, by adopting and implementing policies and strategies, on a multi-year basis as applicable, in accordance with national and regional frameworks, while recognizing the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement[12] as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, notes that 2018 marks their twentieth anniversary and therefore encourages strengthened collaboration to address the challenges of internal displacement, and in this regard recognizes the central role of national and local authorities and institutions in addressing the specific needs of internally displaced persons, in further addressing barriers and obstacles that affect support for internally displaced persons and their host communities, and in finding durable solutions to displacement through, inter alia, continued and enhanced international support, upon request, for the capacity-building of States;

35. *Recognizes* the increase in the number and scale of disasters, including those related to the adverse effects of climate change, which in certain circumstances may contribute to displacement, and additional pressure on host communities, and encourages the United Nations and all relevant actors to strengthen the efforts aimed at addressing the needs of persons displaced within the context of such disasters, and notes in this regard the importance of sharing best practices to prevent and prepare for such displacements;

[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[12] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

36. *Also recognizes* the significant increase in forced displacement worldwide, and stresses the need to comprehensively respond to the specific needs of refugees, internally displaced persons and their host communities in humanitarian and development planning;

37. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant organizations and actors to recognize and address the consequences of humanitarian emergencies for migrants, in particular those in vulnerable situations, and to strengthen coordinated international efforts for their assistance and protection in concert with national authorities;

38. *Recognizes* the importance of early registration and effective registration systems as a tool of protection and as a means of carrying out the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance, notes the many and diverse challenges faced by refugees who remain without any form of documentation attesting to their status, and underlines the importance of increasing accountability to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches its beneficiaries;

39. *Requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue to lead the efforts to strengthen the coordination, effectiveness and accountability of humanitarian assistance through, inter alia, continued and enhanced dialogue with Member States, including on the processes, activities and decisions of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and further strengthening, within existing resources and mandates, the coordination abilities of the humanitarian coordinator, and in this regard encourages Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other intergovernmental organizations and relevant stakeholders to continue to improve cooperation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat so as to ensure effective and efficient delivery of the humanitarian response to affected people;

40. *Recognizes* that accountability is an integral part of effective humanitarian assistance, and emphasizes the need to enhance the accountability of humanitarian actors at all stages of humanitarian assistance;

41. *Calls upon* the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to enhance accountability to Member States, including affected States, and all other stakeholders, including local governments and relevant local organizations, as well as affected populations, and to further strengthen humanitarian response efforts, including by monitoring and evaluating the provision of their humanitarian assistance, incorporating lessons learned into programming and consulting with the affected populations to ensure that their different and specific needs are appropriately addressed;

42. *Urges* United Nations and humanitarian organizations to further advance efficiencies in delivering assistance through reducing management costs, harmonizing partnership agreements, providing transparent and comparable cost structures, and strengthening measures to achieve greater accountability by taking further actions to reduce fraud, waste, abuse and diversion of assistance intended for affected people and identify ways to share incident reports and other information among United Nations agencies, where appropriate;

43. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and humanitarian and development organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, to continue to support Member States, in particular developing countries, in promoting innovation as a means of developing tools that enhance preparedness and reduce fragility and risks through, inter alia, increasing investment in research and development leading to innovation and access to information and communications technologies, and to identify, promote and integrate best practices and lessons learned with regard to, inter alia, partnerships, procurement, collaboration and coordination

between agencies and organizations, and in this regard notes the importance of promoting and supporting innovation and developing local capacities as a priority and welcomes innovative practices that draw on the knowledge of people affected by humanitarian emergencies to develop locally sustainable solutions and to produce life-saving items locally, with minimum logistical and infrastructure implications;

44. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to respond more effectively to needs in humanitarian contexts by, inter alia, scaling up social protection policies and cash-based transfer mechanisms, where feasible, including multipurpose cash programming, as appropriate, to support the development of local markets and strengthen national and local capacities, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations humanitarian organizations to continue to build their capacity to systematically consider cash-based transfer programming, alongside other forms of humanitarian assistance;

45. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflict to respect, and all States to ensure respect for, international humanitarian law, as well as to comply with their obligations under human rights law and refugee law, as applicable;

46. *Calls upon* all States and parties to comply with the provisions of international humanitarian law, including all of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[1] in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War,[13] in order to protect and assist civilians in occupied territories, and in this regard urges the international community and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen humanitarian assistance to civilians in those situations;

47. *Urges* all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance to fully commit to and duly respect the guiding principles contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/182, including the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality as well as the principle of independence, as recognized by the Assembly in its resolution 58/114 of 17 December 2003;

48. *Calls upon* all States and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflict and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and delivery of supplies and equipment in order to allow humanitarian personnel to perform efficiently their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

49. *Requests* the United Nations to continue to identify solutions to strengthen its ability to recruit and deploy appropriately senior, skilled and experienced humanitarian staff quickly and flexibly, giving paramount consideration to the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, while paying due regard to gender equality and to recruiting on as wide a geographical basis as possible;

50. *Recognizes* that diversity of humanitarian staff brings value to humanitarian work and understanding of developing countries' contexts, and requests the Secretary-General to address further the insufficient diversity in geographical representation and gender balance in the composition of the humanitarian staff of the Secretariat and other United Nations humanitarian agencies, in particular regarding professional and high-level staff, and to report on concrete measures taken in this regard in his annual report;

[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

51. *Urges* efforts to enhance cooperation and coordination of United Nations humanitarian entities, other relevant humanitarian organizations and donor countries with the affected States, recognizes that humanitarian assistance should be provided in ways that are supportive of early recovery, sustainable rehabilitation, reconstruction and long-term development, and recalls that early recovery requires timely, effective and predictable funding through humanitarian and development financing, as appropriate, to meet enduring humanitarian, recovery and post-crisis priorities while simultaneously building national and local capacities;

52. *Encourages* the United Nations and relevant humanitarian organizations, in cooperation and coordination with Member States, respecting their national priorities, and consistent with humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, to support and build national and local capacities, including through increasing predictable and, as appropriate, direct financing to national and local partners, including women's groups, with a focus on preparedness, response, recovery and coordination capacities, and encourages Member States to continue to provide funding to humanitarian country-based pooled funds;

53. *Recognizes* that funding needs to be more flexible to allow for a complementary approach in order to effectively and sufficiently address the immediate needs of all affected populations in emergency situations, including for underfunded and forgotten emergencies and those of a long-term nature, and the underlying causes of crises, and encourages Member States, the United Nations system, the private sector and other relevant entities to provide adequate funding and investment in preparedness and resilience-building, including from humanitarian and development budgets, reduce earmarking and increase multi-year, collaborative and flexible planning and multi-year funding, as appropriate, while recognizing the need for transparency in how core and non-earmarked funding is used;

54. *Reaffirms* that investing in national and local skills, systems and knowledge to build resilience and preparedness will save lives, cut costs and preserve development gains, and in this regard encourages exploring innovative ways, including forecast-based financing and disaster risk insurance mechanisms, to increase the availability of resources for Member States before a disaster is credibly expected to occur;

55. *Stresses* the need to enhance resource mobilization efforts to address the increasing capacity and resource gap, including through additional contributions from non-traditional donors, exploring innovative mechanisms, such as the utilization of risk-informed anticipatory decision-making, flexible funding for multi-year appeals through existing tools such as consolidated and flash appeals, the Central Emergency Response Fund and other funds, such as the country-based pooled funds, and to continue to broaden both public and private sector partnerships and the donor base in order to increase the predictability and effectiveness of funding, and to promote South-South and horizontal and triangular cooperation globally, and in this regard encourages, as appropriate, Member States to contribute to the humanitarian appeals brought forward by the United Nations;

56. *Welcomes* the important achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund in ensuring a more timely and predictable response to humanitarian emergencies, and therefore welcomes the call by the Secretary-General to double the Fund to 1 billion United States dollars by 2018, and in this regard encourages Member States, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to support the Fund, and emphasizes the need to broaden and diversify the income base of the Fund;

57. *Notes* the holding of the first World Humanitarian Summit, in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 and 24 May 2016;

58. *Encourages* Member States to work closely with the United Nations and other relevant actors, including the private sector and local entities, as appropriate, to promote more effective emergency preparedness and response in urban areas, and implement policies to ensure more effective disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management, and in this regard recalls the New Urban Agenda adopted by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,[14] and the commitments undertaken therein by Member States regarding persons affected by humanitarian crises in urban areas;

59. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reflect the concrete measures taken and the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution in his next report to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

60. *Requests* the Presidents of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to continue their efforts with a view to eliminating duplication between the resolutions of the Council and the Assembly on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, while promoting their complementarity.

[14] General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

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Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, by which the Assembly endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", which recognized the importance of space technology-based data, in situ monitoring and reliable geospatial information for sustainable development policymaking, programming and project operations,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, by which the Assembly adopted the document entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which recognized that quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 69/283 of 3 June 2015, by which the Assembly endorsed the outcome documents of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, entitled "Sendai Declaration" and "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030", which recognized the importance of a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and the importance of disseminating risk information with the best use of geospatial information technology,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 71/256 of 23 December 2016, by which the Assembly endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), entitled "New Urban Agenda", which committed to strengthening the resilience of cities and human settlements, including through the development of quality infrastructure and spatial planning, by adopting and implementing integrated, age- and gender-responsive policies and plans and ecosystem-based approaches in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and by mainstreaming holistic

* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

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and data-informed disaster risk reduction and management at all levels to reduce vulnerabilities and risk, especially in risk-prone areas,

Recalling also its resolution 2011/24 of 27 July 2011, by which the Council established the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, and its supporting resolution 2016/27 of 27 July 2016 on strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management, in which the Council requested the Committee to continue its work on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and other global development agendas within the purview of the United Nations,

Noting decision 5/110, adopted on 7 August 2015 by the Committee of Experts at its fifth session,[1] in which the Committee strongly supported the establishment of the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters and the development and implementation of a strategic framework aimed at improving geospatial information policy, processes and services to support emergency response and disaster risk reduction that are aligned with the outcome and follow-up to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and its implementation,

Welcoming decision 7/110, adopted on 4 August 2017 by the Committee of Experts at its seventh session,[2] in which the Committee adopted the strategic framework on geospatial information and services for disasters as a guide for Member States in their respective national activities, to ensure the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services across all phases of disaster risk reduction and management, and endorsed the consideration of drafting a resolution presenting the strategic framework for adoption by the Economic and Social Council,

1. *Endorses* the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters, as contained in the annex to the present resolution, as a guide for Member States to ensure the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services across all phases of disaster risk reduction and management, and acknowledges the valuable work, broad consultations and communication and outreach strategies of the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters, with the assistance of the Committee of Experts, in preparing the Strategic Framework;

2. *Invites* Member States, their relevant government bodies, the United Nations system, international organizations, donors, the private sector, academia and non-governmental organizations with responsibility for disaster risk reduction and management, in accordance with their mandates, to adopt the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters, recognizing that disaster risk reduction and management requires the commitment and cooperation of all stakeholders.

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 26* (E/2015/46), chap. I, sect. B.

[2] Ibid., 2017, *Supplement No. 46* (E/2017/46), chap. I, sect. B.

Annex

Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters

I. Preamble

1. Member States have the primary responsibility to protect their citizens from the social, economic and environmental impacts of disasters. During the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Member States reiterated their commitment to address disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters with a renewed sense of urgency within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and to integrate, as appropriate, both disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience into policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels and to consider both within relevant frameworks.[3]

2. Geospatial information has been widely recognized as an important aspect of disaster risk management. The availability and accessibility of quality geospatial data and information from authoritative sources ensure that decision makers and other stakeholders have an accurate common operational picture of critical scenarios before, during and after disasters.

3. During disaster situations, data-sharing mechanisms in support of decision-making are generally not in place. As a result, the many actors and stakeholders simultaneously engaged in response are not only gathering volumes of concurrent and inconsistent geospatial datasets but are also concerned with issues of coordination and communication. This is aggravated further by a situation in which local institutions that see a need to pursue geospatial data development have to compete for government resources and priorities.

4. Recent large-scale disasters caused by natural and human-made hazards have demonstrated the gap between the state of geospatial information and informed decision-making. This situation highlighted the need to find solutions aimed at improving not only the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services, but also coordination and communication among stakeholders at all levels of decision-making across all phases of disaster risk management. It underscores the strong relevance of a strategic framework not only to address the challenges relating to geospatial information management, but also to benchmark best practices implemented worldwide across all phases of disaster risk management.

5. Building on the results of a fact-finding analysis[4] and a review of existing frameworks, rules, legislation and policies,[5] the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management prepared a strategic framework that will optimize the benefits of the use of geospatial information and services by Member States and other entities concerned across all phases of disaster risk management.

6. This framework is not only timely in view of the increasing number and impact of disasters but also contributes to the implementation by Member States of the Sendai

[3] See General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

[4] Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, "Improving geospatial information policy, processes and services to support emergency responses: fact finding analysis and proposed strategic framework (final report)", 1 December 2015. Available at http://ggim.un.org/documents/20151215%20Final%20UN-GGIM%20Report%20on%20Emergency%20Response.pdf.

[5] Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, "Draft review of frameworks, rules, legislation, and policies on geospatial information and services for disasters", May 2016.

Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, adopted during the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015 and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in June 2015.[6] It also builds on General Assembly resolution 59/212 of 20 December 2004,[7] in which the Assembly called upon Member States, the United Nations and other key stakeholders to assist in addressing knowledge gaps in disaster risk management by improving systems and networks for the collection and analysis of information on disasters, vulnerabilities and disaster risks to facilitate informed decision-making.

7. Furthermore, disaster risk management is central to sustainable development. As such, the framework contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.[8]

II. Expected outcome and goal

8. Building on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the strategic framework aims to achieve the following outcome:

> The human, socioeconomic and environmental risks and impacts of disasters are prevented or reduced through the use of geospatial information and services.

The use of geospatial and relevant statistical information will help Member States to better understand, formulate policies on and manage the risks and impacts of disasters. The realization of this outcome will require the strong commitment and cooperation of all stakeholders and key partners involved in disaster risk management. These include but are not limited to Governments and government agencies, the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management and United Nations entities, as well as non-governmental organizations, international partners and donors, the private sector, academia and volunteers.

9. The following goal must be pursued by Member States in order to attain the expected outcome:

> Quality geospatial information and services are available and accessible in a timely and coordinated way to support decision-making and operations within and across all sectors and phases of disaster risk management.

Reaching this goal requires Member States to be in the position to develop, maintain and provide the necessary geospatial information and services.

10. The following targets are proposed in order to guide Member States in the assessment of their progress in achieving the outcome and goal of the strategic framework:

(a) Awareness is raised among policymakers and concerned entities on the importance of geospatial information and services to the disaster risk management process; regular assessment, monitoring and evaluation of risks and disaster situations are conducted; and a comprehensive plan is developed to implement the five priorities for action identified in this framework;

(b) Policies on collaboration, coordination and sharing are established, issued and implemented;

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[6] General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

[7] See also General Assembly resolution 69/243.

[8] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

(c) Geospatial databases and information products are developed, maintained and updated based on common standards,[9] protocols and processes as important tools in every decision-making process across all phases of disaster risk management;

(d) Common geospatial information facilities and services are established for all key stakeholders to have a common operational picture of disaster events;

(e) Information, education and communications capacities and mechanisms are built and strengthened;

(f) Resources are made available to sustain all activities for the enhancement of the use of geospatial information in disaster risk management.

III. Guiding principles

11. The strategic framework draws from the principles included in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030; General Assembly resolutions 59/212 and 69/243 on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management; and other relevant instruments pertaining, but not limited to, the concepts of open data, communities and sources, as well as the concept of spatial data infrastructure. The implementation of the framework will emphasize the fundamentals of sustainability, accessibility, complementarity and interoperability, while taking into account national circumstances and consistency with domestic laws as well as international obligations and commitments:

(a) Each Member State shall be in the position to generate, maintain and provide quality geospatial information and services across all phases of disaster risk management;

(b) Geospatial data and information generated and maintained by Member States and the international community shall be openly accessible to the disaster risk management community, as appropriate;

(c) The implementation of the framework shall encourage data sharing, interoperability and harmonization among neighbour countries in order to respond efficiently to cross-border disasters;

(d) The implementation of the framework shall comply with the standards and requirements of the national spatial data infrastructure or contribute to the establishment of such infrastructure if it is not yet in place;

(e) The international organizations and developed countries shall extend and coordinate their support to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income and other countries facing specific disaster risk challenges.

[9] Open Geospatial Consortium, International Organization for Standardization/Technical Committee 211 on geographic information/geomatics and International Hydrographic Organization, "A guide to the role of standards in geospatial information management, August 2015. Available at http://ggim.un.org/documents/Standards%20Guide%20for%20UNGGIM%20-%20Final.pdf.

IV. Priorities for action

12. Taking into account the result of the fact-finding analysis and the review of existing frameworks, laws, policies and regulations, and pursuant to the expected outcome and goal, there is a need for a collaborative and coordinated approach within and across sectors in Member States in implementing the following five priorities for action:

- Priority 1: governance and policies
- Priority 2: awareness-raising and capacity-building
- Priority 3: data management
- Priority 4: common infrastructure and services
- Priority 5: resource mobilization

13. Member States shall take into consideration their respective capacities, resources and priorities, as well as laws and regulations, when implementing the major activities identified for each priority. These activities serve as a guide and can be further enhanced by Member States and other key stakeholders based on their political and socioeconomic situations.

Priority 1: governance and policies

14. The management of geospatial information and services for disasters shall be based on good governance and science-based policies. Such policies should collectively form part of other equally important policies on awareness-raising and capacity-building, data management, infrastructure and services, and resource mobilization. Specific activities shall include assessment and planning, institutional arrangements, collaboration and coordination and monitoring and evaluation.

National and local levels

15. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) For Member States to ensure political and financial support at the highest level for the successful implementation of the five priorities for action;

(b) To identify the champion and/or national entity that will oversee the implementation of the five priorities for action and ensure the inclusive participation of all stakeholders and key partners;

(c) To establish and maintain open channels of communication with the objective of improving coordination, collaboration and exchange of information and relevant resources;

(d) To regularly conduct situational assessment and analysis of the availability, accessibility and usage of quality geospatial information and services. In order to be comprehensive, such assessment shall cover the five priorities for action and be based on established key performance indicators;

(e) On the basis of the results of the assessment, to develop and implement plans and programmes aimed at establishing or strengthening the availability, accessibility and usage of quality geospatial information and services across all phases of disaster risk management;

(f) To develop and implement laws and policies to bind all efforts in a systematic and consensus-based road map;

(g) To establish a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation scheme supported by a set of metrics to continuously support and further improve both the national and institutional plans and programmes as well as to ensure that geospatial information and services are aligned with changing needs and priorities.

Global and regional levels

16. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) To encourage collaboration, coordination and partnership between government and non-government actors, between and among geospatial information and emergency response communities, and between Governments and international organizations;

(b) To promote mutual learning and exchange of good governance practices and policies among Member States;

(c) To provide effective channels where Member States and other stakeholders can share technical knowledge, lessons learned, best practices and case studies;

(d) To regularly conduct assessment of the availability, accessibility and usage of quality geospatial information and services for disaster risk management and related purposes.

Priority 2: awareness-raising and capacity-building

17. Risks and impacts of disasters will be properly managed if Member States and other stakeholders are fully aware of their respective geospatial data and information holdings. This requires all entities to bring the necessary changes towards making available and accessible quality geospatial information and services across all phases of disaster risk management.

National and local levels

18. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) To translate geospatial information and services into components that can easily be understood by a wider audience. Specific strategies may include using local languages, area- and issue-based scenarios, and social media and other platforms in collecting and disseminating information;

(b) To promote the inclusion of geospatial information management as applied to disaster risk management in academic programmes;

(c) To take on technical responsibilities by leading research endeavours in disaster risk management using up-to-date geospatial information;

(d) To examine the capacities of entities to provide training and match them with inventories of existing skills among stakeholders and other key partners and urge Member States to respond to identified gaps and areas for further improvement;

(e) To design and implement information, education and communication campaigns and disaster simulation exercises based on the results of training needs assessment initiatives;

(f) To design and implement multilevel geospatial information management training programmes as applied to disaster risk management among the data custodians and users within Member States;

(g) To strengthen the competencies of Member States and other stakeholders in establishing spatial data infrastructures and open data platforms for geospatial information and services;

(h) To identify and assess laws, policies and institutional gaps for all awareness-raising and capacity-building initiatives.

Global and regional levels

19. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) To develop and publish a long-term plan on multisectoral and multilevel capacity-building, including scenario-based modelling and experiments;

(b) To conduct data and information management training, especially among humanitarian/responders' communities;

(c) To harness the technical expertise within international partners and donor institutions through the conduct of studies, research and modelling, publish and make available the results of such initiatives to recipient Governments, government agencies and other stakeholders;

(d) To benchmark best practices from other Member States and institutions and cascade them to the local context. These practices may come in the form of human resource and system improvements, as well as technology exchange programmes. Benchmarking will also ensure that Governments and government agencies are on par with current global undertakings.

Priority 3: data management

20. A comprehensive method of managing geospatial data and information for their optimal utility by the Member States and other stakeholders is crucial in implementing the strategic framework. That method should include specific activities on data development, including collection; data standards and protocols; and data use guidelines. Modern, cost-effective and open-source technologies may be used to improve data and information management.

National and local levels

21. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) To develop a common and accessible database system of minimum/baseline geospatial information and services requirements, including an initial list of essential elements of information addressing all phases of disaster risk management. These include, but are not limited to, comprehensive common operational datasets and fundamental operational datasets, such as administrative boundaries; population; critical infrastructures and other exposure datasets; and earth observation data holdings. Crowdsourced or volunteered geospatial information may be included, but attention should be given to issues of the accuracy, resolution, authoritativeness, integrity, openness and interoperability of such datasets;

(b) To develop hazard, vulnerability and disaster risk assessment maps and other information products as crucial inputs to national and local disaster risk management plans and in framing relevant projects, programmes and activities;

(c) To maintain a national and local emergency responders common contact database;

(d) To develop a registry of all international humanitarian response/assistance organizations to ensure coordination of the deployment of humanitarian aid;

(e) To conduct humanitarian profiling and event or incident scenario-building across all phases of disaster risk management;

(f) To develop business use cases and data information product templates to respond to mission-critical requests for geospatial information in disaster risk management;

(g) To optimize the use of geospatial information products for the development of common operational pictures of disaster events. In turn, this information will be translated by Member States and other stakeholders to reflect existing conditions at the local level;

(h) To develop data management policies including, but not limited to, data collection; data sharing; data classification; data custodianship; data stewardship; metadata; data security and control; and data backup and recovery at the local and national levels;

(i) To promote the importance of integrating geospatial data and statistics in disaster risk management plans and programmes;

(j) To identify and assess laws, policies and institutional gaps for all data management initiatives;

(k) To encourage the open data community and government institutions to engage more actively with each other for the complementation and alignment of their respective datasets;

(l) To use geospatial information as a major driver for the establishment of the national spatial data infrastructure.

Global and regional levels

22. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) To encourage Governments and the international community to openly share their data and establish sharing mechanisms that include the identification of mission-specific essential elements of information;

(b) To encourage the convergence of existing projects aimed at developing global datasets and collaboration among relevant government agencies in countries, starting with national mapping agencies, to get these datasets compiled, updated and validated;

(c) To optimize the use of geospatial information products for the development of common operational pictures of disaster events within and across affected regions;

(d) To adhere to data management guidelines including, but not limited to, data collection; data sharing; data classification; data custodianship; data stewardship; metadata; data security and control; and data backup and recovery at the global and regional levels;

(e) To cascade best practices, particularly established standards, protocols and processes within and among Member States.

Priority 4: common infrastructure and services

23. Institutionalizing geospatial information and services requires infrastructure support, such as a common operations centre, facilitated by a dedicated team of experts and support staff. This should be complemented by hardware and software acquisitions, as well as application systems that will serve as data distribution platforms. Interoperability of information will likewise require facilities and systems duly recognized and supported by Member States and other key stakeholders.

National and local levels

24. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) To build on existing systems to develop a common infrastructure and facility, particularly an operations centre supported by a maintenance programme;

(b) To implement business use cases, where operations centres will provide common support services in addressing mission-critical requests in all phases of disaster risk management. A mirror system for online and offline processing of data can also be established to sustain operations during disasters;

(c) To ensure the interoperability of all systems, processes and skills among and within Member States by adhering to data management guidelines and other geospatial information management standards;

(d) To maintain the integrity of established common infrastructure and services by regularly conducting disaster simulation exercises;

(e) To identify and assess laws, policies and institutional gaps for all common infrastructure and services initiatives;

(f) To pursue the application of new geospatial information management technologies.

Global and regional levels

25. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) To assist Member States and other stakeholders in establishing their respective common infrastructure and services;

(b) To promote interoperability of systems and processes and share best practices with Member States;

(c) To encourage the establishment of regional geoportals for disaster risk management.

Priority 5: resource mobilization

26. In order to support the activities identified in this framework, an array of human resources, as well as technical, financial and other forms of logistical and administrative support, is required by Member States and other stakeholders.

National and local levels

27. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) To sensitize the authorities on the necessity of funding the acquisition, maintenance and updating of geospatial information. In particular, national mapping agencies should be supported to play a key role in the implementation of national spatial data infrastructure that supports the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services across all phases of disaster risk management;

(b) To encourage the academic community to prioritize funding for the conduct of related research, development and extension activities, particularly in the implementation of the strategic framework;

(c) To encourage the private sectors to invest in the provision of geospatial information and related services for disaster risk management;

(d) To identify and assess laws, policies and institutional gaps for all resource mobilization initiatives.

Global and regional levels

28. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) To improve access to funding support for the activities in the implementation of the strategic framework, including provisions for grants, loans and other forms of financial support;

(b) To promote resource-sharing mechanisms among Member States and regions with common interests and in similar situations.

V. Role of stakeholders

29. Member States should be in the position to generate, maintain and provide quality geospatial information and services. This will require the involvement of national mapping agencies, national disaster management agencies, national statistical institutions, national hydrographic agencies and other relevant government organizations.

30. It is also recognized that the commitment, goodwill, knowledge, experience and resources of other stakeholders are key to the implementation of the strategic framework. Member States should encourage the following actions on the part of all public and private stakeholders and other key partners:

(a) Civil society groups, volunteers' organizations and other community-based organizations to fully participate in the initiatives of the Government, including technical and administrative provisions relating to geospatial information and services;

(b) Private sector institutions, including financial regulators and accounting bodies, as well as philanthropic foundations, to integrate geospatial information and services as a key component to support informed decision-making across all phases of disaster risk management. They should also encourage projects at the national and local levels to adhere to established standards, protocols, guidelines and policies as well as contribute to their strengthening, if necessary;

(c) Academic, scientific and research entities and networks to focus their studies on the potential contributions of geospatial information and services across all phases of disaster risk management. The results of this research shall be made available and accessible to the public;

(d) Media to take an active and inclusive role at the local, national, regional and global levels in raising public awareness on the importance of geospatial information and services in disaster risk management.

31. The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management shall play a leading role in setting the agenda for the development of global geospatial information and services, and to promote their use to address key global challenges. As such, it will be well placed to contribute to several of the priorities mentioned in the framework, starting with:

(a) Raising the awareness of Member States and other stakeholders on the importance of geospatial information and services before, during and after disasters;

(b) Encouraging Member States to develop and promote geospatial databases, standards, protocols and processes aimed at improving data quality and interoperability at the national and global levels;

(c) Encouraging Member States to develop and implement policies aimed at improving the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services in support of disaster risk management.

32. The United Nations entities concerned shall contribute to the overarching principles reflected in the strategic framework. They should provide a monitoring and evaluation scheme to ensure the relevance of implemented projects, programmes and activities within Governments and government agencies to international agreements.

33. The international funding institutions shall consider prioritizing funding programmes leading to the optimal utilization of geospatial information and services, particularly during disaster events. Similarly, expertise from these organizations can also be harnessed by Member States in implementing the technical and administrative provisions of the framework.

VI. Implementation

34. Geospatial information and services contribute vastly to the overarching effort of preventing or reducing the social, economic and environmental impacts of disasters. Thus, Member States and other stakeholders should prioritize a geospatially oriented agenda in their respective development plans and programmes.

35. Member States and other stakeholders should commit themselves to the full implementation of the priorities for action by improving their current capacities in providing geospatial information and services across all phases of disaster risk management and actively promoting the goals of the five priorities for action and translate the same into national implementation plans.

36. A participatory and inclusive approach in generating, improving and managing geospatial information should be employed by all entities involved in disaster risk management efforts.

37. Managing geospatial information and services before, during and after disasters will require all Member States and other stakeholders to institutionalize good governance practices and science-based policies, supported by improved capacities, including in relation to human resources, infrastructure and geospatial data management.

38. In support of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, international cooperation should be recognized as a critical element in managing geospatial information and services before, during and after disasters, and thus implementing the provisions of the strategic framework. Adopting best practices and identifying champions among Member States will augment their existing capacities in using geospatial information and services across all phases of disaster risk management.

Definitions of terms

Authoritative data. These are officially recognized data that can be certified and provided by an authoritative source.

Authoritative source. This is an entity authorized by a legal authority to develop or manage data for a specific business purpose. The data this entity creates are authoritative data.

Capacity. It is the combination of all the strengths, attributes and resources available within an organization, community or society to manage and reduce disaster risks and strengthen resilience (A/71/644 and A/71/644/Corr.1).

Common operational datasets. Key geographical objects needed to support the operation and decision-making during the emergency response. This would include,

but not be limited to: administrative boundaries, populated places, transportation network, health facilities, utilities schools and evacuation centres.

Data. Facts and statistics collected for reference or analysis.

Disaster. A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability and capacity, leading to one or more of the following: human, material, economic and environmental losses and impacts (A/71/644 and A/71/644/Corr.1).

Disaster risk management. Refers to the application of disaster risk reduction policies and strategies to prevent new disaster risk, reduce existing disaster risk and manage residual risk, contributing to the strengthening of resilience and reduction of disaster losses (A/71/644 and A/71/644/Corr.1).

Disaster risk reduction. Aimed at preventing new and reducing existing disaster risk and managing residual risk, all of which contribute to strengthening resilience and therefore to the achievement of sustainable development (A/71/644 and A/71/644/Corr.1).

Essential elements of information. The critical information requirements prepared for and by Member States and other key stakeholders at a particular time to assist in high-level decisions and agreements.

Emergency. Unforeseen or sudden occurrence, especially danger, demanding immediate action.

Exposure. The situation of people, infrastructure, housing, production capacities and other tangible human assets located in hazard-prone areas (A/71/644 and A/71/644/Corr.1).

Fundamental operational datasets. Attributes or statistics attached to the key geographical objects defined as part of the common operational datasets. This would include, but not be limited to, population, livelihood and response capacity.

Geospatial information. Data referenced to a place (a set of geographical coordinates) on the Earth's surface, whether on land or at sea.

Geospatial services. Refers to the administrative, technical and programmatic support for geospatial-related issues and concerns. In most cases, such services require the use of spatial technologies and infrastructure support.

Hazard. A process, phenomenon or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation (A/71/644 and A/71/644/Corr.1).

Humanitarian profile. A dynamic paper that takes into account possible events in the country, as well as in the region that could have humanitarian implications and which would require proper planning and preparedness.[10]

Key performance indicator. A performance measure tool used to assess and evaluate the implementation of a particular activity and/or initiative. Aside from gauging effectiveness, key performance indicators can also identify issues and gaps from implementation.

National disaster management agencies. Pertains to an organization that is primarily responsible for managing natural and human-made disasters, and other emergency situations.

[10] Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, "Uganda humanitarian profile 2011", available at https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/A7912A54E132F09AC125780E0046085B-Full_Report.pdf.

In most cases, national disaster management offices and national emergency management agencies have the same functions as national disaster management agencies.

National hydrographic agencies. Refers to organizations that are responsible for the measurement and description of the physical features of oceans, seas, coastal areas, lakes and rivers for navigation, charting, and support to a number of marine activities.

National mapping agencies. An organization that is usually publicly owned, that is primarily responsible for the generation, management and standardization of geospatial information and other related products. These may include maps, nautical charts and images.

National geospatial institutes have the same functions as national mapping agencies.

National spatial data infrastructure. Refers to the technology, policies, standards and human resources necessary to acquire, process, store, distribute and improve utilization of geospatial data.[11]

National statistical institutions. Refers to the organizations/units that provide official statistics for national and local planning and development, and governs a Member State's national statistical system.

Open data. Data that can be freely used, reused and redistributed by anyone, subject only, at most, to measures that preserve provenance and openness.

Outcome. Results of actions based on the implementation of projects, programmes and activities.

Phases of disaster risk management. Refers to the main components comprising the disaster management cycle, and is cited in this document as follows:

- Before disasters (disaster prevention and mitigation, disaster preparedness)
- During disasters (disaster response)
- After disasters (disaster rehabilitation and recovery)

Quality geospatial information. Spatial data that are fit for their intended uses or purposes in operations, decision-making and planning. Furthermore, such data should adhere to the following 10 principles: accurate; valid; reliable; timely; relevant; complete; interoperable; machine processable; documented; and secured.

Resilience. The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management (A/71/644 and A/71/644/Corr.1).

Risk. The combination of the probability of an event and its negative consequences.[12]

Sustainable development. Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

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[11] United States of America, "Coordinating geographic data acquisition and access: the national spatial data infrastructure: Executive Order 12906 of April 11, 1994", *Federal Register*, vol. 59, No. 71 (April 1994).

[12] United Nations, *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015: Making Development Sustainable — The Future of Disaster Risk Management* (Geneva, 2015). Available at www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/2015/en/gar-pdf/GAR2015_EN.pdf.

United Nations E/2018/L.16

Economic and Social Council

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Agenda item 12 (f)
Coordination, programme and other questions: prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

Russian Federation: draft resolution

United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2013/12 of 22 July 2013, 2014/10 of 13 June 2014, 2015/8 of 9 June 2015, 2016/5 of 2 June 2016 and 2017/8 of 7 June 2017 on the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases,

Recalling also the commitments included in the 2011 political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases[1] and the 2014 outcome document of the high-level meeting of the Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases[2] and looking forward to the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and recalling further the proposed actions set out in the World Health Organization Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases 2013–2020,[3]

Welcoming the convening of the World Health Organization Global Conference on Non-communicable Diseases in Montevideo from 18 to 20 October 2017, and taking note of its outcome document, which highlights non-communicable diseases as a sustainable development priority and which contributes to the preparatory process leading up to the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,

[1] General Assembly resolution 66/2, annex.
[2] General Assembly resolution 68/300.
[3] World Health Organization, document WHA66/2013/REC/1, annex 4.

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Please recycle

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: our promise for dignity, prosperity and peace on a healthy planet",[4]

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which includes non-communicable disease-related targets, including reducing by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by 2030 and ensuring prevention and treatment, as well as support for research and development for vaccines and medicines, and recalling the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[5] which noted the enormous burden that non-communicable diseases place on developed and developing countries, and that these costs are particularly challenging for developing countries,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on progress on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,[6]

Noting with concern that the global burden of non-communicable diseases, principally cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes, which are linked to one or more of the modifiable risk factors, notably, the four main risk factors, namely, tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity, as well as air pollution, as the largest environmental risk factor contributing to non-communicable diseases, constitutes one of the major challenges for development in the twenty-first century, which undermines social and economic development throughout the world and threatens the achievement of internationally agreed development goals,

Noting that the health-related targets included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are also linked to several factors,

Noting also the progress made by the Task Force in the execution of its mandate, including joint programming missions to an increasing number of countries and global joint programmes and thematic working groups that contribute to 30 targets of 12 Sustainable Development Goals, and that its work has significant implications for national multisectoral non-communicable disease responses and development plans and policies,

Recalling the model policy for agencies of the United Nations system on preventing tobacco industry interference, which was developed in the context of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control,[7]

Noting with concern the continued shortage of resources available for the Task Force and, in particular, the global joint programmes developed by the Task Force, as well as for non-communicable disease-related task forces and mechanisms at the regional and subregional levels, which remain mostly unfunded to date, and in this regard noting ongoing relevant discussions on catalysing financing to fill the gap, including by identifying funding mechanisms, such as a multi-donor trust fund,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Director General of the World Health Organization on the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases[8] and the recommendations contained therein, including to report to the Economic and Social Council in 2019 on progress made in implementing Council resolution 2013/12;

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[4] A/72/684-E/2018/7.

[5] General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

[6] A/72/662.

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2302, No. 41032.

[8] E/2018/49.

2. *Recognizes* that the requests in its resolution 2016/5 for members of the Task Force to provide support to Member States to reflect the non-communicable disease-related targets included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[9] in national development plans and policies cannot be fulfilled with the current resources;

3. *Calls upon* Member States and international development partners to provide financial or in-kind support for the work of the Task Force, and invites other stakeholders, including the private sector, as appropriate, philanthropic foundations and civil society, to also provide support in this regard;

4. *Welcomes* the financial or in-kind support provided by Member States and international development partners for the work of the Task Force;

5. *Calls upon* the Task Force and its members to continue to work together and with philanthropic foundations, civil society and the private sector, as appropriate, to identify additional resources to provide support to Member States;

6. *Encourages* the Task Force and its members, including through United Nations country teams, to intensify the provision of technical support to Member States in collaboration with other such existing task forces or similar mechanisms, at the regional and subregional levels, as appropriate, in order to achieve the non-communicable disease-related targets as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

7. *Urges* national Governments, the private sector as appropriate, and bilateral and multilateral donors, including the World Bank and regional development banks, to explore financing for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and mobilizing the provision of adequate, predictable and sustained resources for the programmatic work of the Task Force, including the four global joint programmes, in order to scale up Task Force support to Member States;

8. *Calls upon* the Task Force and its members to develop partnerships to achieve public health goals with Governments, non-governmental organizations, relevant private sector entities, academic institutions and philanthropic foundations to support the work of the Task Force at the global, regional and country levels within the mandate of the Task Force as set out in resolution 2013/12;

9. *Requests* the Task Force to further support Member States in the prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases, as well as support for research and development of vaccines and medicines and the provision of access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all, as well as strengthening regulatory systems, pursuing good supply-chain management and strengthening health systems for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases;

10. *Calls upon* the Task Force and its members to strengthen its capacity to provide technical and policy advice to Governments in order to implement multisectoral strategies and enhance multi-stakeholder action, including with the private sector, with a view to strengthening their contribution to the implementation of national responses to non-communicable diseases;

11. *Also calls upon* the Task Force and its members, within its mandate, to support, upon request, the capacity of Member States for improved regulatory and legal frameworks that promote favourable health outcomes for non-communicable diseases;

12. *Encourages* members of the Task Force, as appropriate and in line with their respective mandates, to continue to develop and implement their own policies

[9] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

on preventing tobacco industry interference, bearing in mind the model policy for agencies of the United Nations system on preventing tobacco industry interference, in order to ensure a consistent and effective separation between the activities of the United Nations system and those of the tobacco industry;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its 2019 session on progress achieved in implementing resolution 2013/12, under the sub-item entitled "Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases" of the item entitled "Coordination, programme and other questions", following up on the decisions taken by the General Assembly at the comprehensive review in 2018 of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

United Nations E/2018/L.17

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Agenda item 14
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Antigua and Barbuda,* Cuba,* Ecuador, India, Indonesia,* Nicaragua,* Saint Kitts and Nevis,* Saint Lucia,* Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Syrian Arab Republic* and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of): draft resolution

Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council containing the information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[2]

Having heard the statement by the representative of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[3]

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, the resolutions of the Special Committee and other relevant resolutions and decisions, including, in particular, Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/31 of 25 July 2017,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] A/73/70.

[2] E/2018/56.

[3] See E/2018/SR.__.

18-10616 (E) 290618

Please recycle

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV),

Welcoming the current participation, in their capacity as observers, of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of the regional commissions in the world conferences in the economic and social sphere, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting that only some specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system have been involved in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing that, because the development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, they face special challenges in planning for and implementing sustainable development, and that they will be constrained in meeting those challenges without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the resources necessary for funding expanded programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all the major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in that regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance for the Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various decisions of the United Nations relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 72/111 of 7 December 2017, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council,[2] and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

3. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts within the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

4. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

5. *Also reaffirms* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples, on a case-by-case basis;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Non-Self-Governing Territory so that they may take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories on a case-by-case basis;

8. *Urges* those specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet provided assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories to do so as soon as possible on a case-by-case basis;

9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and to formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories on a case-by-case basis, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

10. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:

(a) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts, on those Territories;

(c) Ways and means to assist the Territories to fight drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;

(d) Illegal exploitation of the marine and other natural resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories;

11. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned and on a case-by-case basis, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit those proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

12. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review, at the regular meetings of their governing bodies, the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

13. *Recalls* the preparation by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, of an informational leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and its updated online version, and requests that they be disseminated as widely as possible;

14. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining a close liaison between the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

15. *Encourages* the Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

16. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to continue their cooperation with the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in the framework of the responsibilities established in Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular subparagraph *d*, and to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories, so that they may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

17. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts within the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on a case-by-case basis;

18. *Draws the attention* of the Special Committee to the present resolution and to the discussion held on the subject at the 2018 session of the Economic and Social Council;

19. *Recalls* the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on 16 May 1998 of its resolution 574 (XXVII),[4] in which the Commission called for the mechanisms necessary for its associate members, including the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to participate, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, in the special sessions of the Assembly convened

[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 21* (E/1998/41), chap. III, sect. G.

to review and assess the implementation of the plans of action of those United Nations world conferences in which the Territories had originally participated in their capacity as observers, and in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies;

20. *Requests* the President of the Council to continue to maintain close contact on those matters with the Chair of the Special Committee and to report thereon to the Council;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow up on the implementation of the present resolution, paying particular attention to cooperation and integration arrangements for maximizing the efficiency of the assistance activities undertaken by various organizations of the United Nations system, and to report thereon to the Council at its 2019 session;

22. *Decides* to keep the above questions under continuous review.

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Economic and Social Council

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27 July 2017–26 July 2018
Agenda item 12 (d)
Coordination, programme and other questions: long-term programme of support for Haiti

Argentina,* Bahamas,* Belize,* Canada, Chile, Haiti,* Spain and Uruguay: draft resolution

Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2004/52 of 23 July 2004, 2005/46 of 27 July 2005, 2006/10 of 26 July 2006, 2007/13 of 25 July 2007, 2008/10 of 23 July 2008, 2009/4 of 23 July 2009, 2010/28 of 23 July 2010, 2012/21 of 26 July 2012, 2013/15 of 23 July 2013, 2014/37 of 18 November 2014, 2015/18 of 21 July 2015, 2016/28 of 27 July 2016 and 2017/26 of 25 July 2017 and its decisions 2004/322 of 11 November 2004, 2009/211 of 20 April 2009, 2009/267 of 15 December 2009, 2011/207 of 17 February 2011, 2011/211 of 26 April 2011, 2011/268 of 28 July 2011, 2013/209 of 15 February 2013, 2014/207 of 30 January 2014, 2014/210 of 23 April 2014 and 2014/221 of 13 June 2014,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti[1] and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Recognizes* that political, institutional and socioeconomic stability are essential to the long-term development of Haiti, and welcomes the efforts of the Government of Haiti, the United Nations and the international community in this regard;

3. *Welcomes* the continued efforts of the Government of Haiti to foster resilience and inclusive socioeconomic development for all Haitians;

4. *Encourages* the Haitian authorities and all political actors and stakeholders to seize this opportunity to work together to contribute to the reconstruction and development process of Haiti as well as to build and to sustain peace;

5. *Calls upon* donors and other partners, including the United Nations system and the international financial institutions, to remain engaged in support of the long-

* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.
[1] E/2018/75.

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term development of Haiti, in line with priorities set by the Government of Haiti and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[2] and calls upon the Haitian authorities and international partners to improve coordination efforts based on strong national leadership and to take more coordinated and transparent steps to strengthen the implementation of the External Aid Coordination Framework for the Development of Haiti with a view to making full use of its potential for effective international support;

6. *Calls upon* the Government of Haiti and development partners to redouble efforts to use existing mechanisms for the tracking of assistance, in order to increase transparency, coordination and alignment with Haitian development priorities;

7. *Welcomes* the elaboration of a United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the period 2017–2021, and calls for, inter alia, closer coordination between the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti and the United Nations country team and consultation with the Government of Haiti, especially in the light of the planned exit strategy of the Mission, to ensure the implementation of the "Delivering as one" approach by the United Nations system in Haiti;

8. *Recognizes* the positive contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives coordinated by the Government of Haiti on the basis of a horizontal and participatory approach in order to help the country to respond to development challenges in a more flexible and effective manner, with special emphasis on an integrated approach to capacity-building, and encourages all development partners, including the United Nations system and developing countries, to support such modalities;

9. *Calls upon* the Government of Haiti and development partners to support civil society organizations in Haiti, to benefit from their local knowledge and to strengthen their capacity to engage in the development process and become more effective agents of change in support of Haiti's development objectives;

10. *Invites* donors to align their efforts with the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera in Haiti (2013–2022), the new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti and the national health plan, as well as with other national activities to prevent waterborne diseases, and to provide the financial resources necessary for their implementation, and welcomes the efforts undertaken by the United Nations Special Envoy for Haiti to mobilize adequate funding to eliminate cholera from Haiti;

11. *Calls urgently for* adequate funding for humanitarian activities, including the cholera epidemic response, as presented in the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan for Haiti, and encourages partners to connect short-term activities with long-term development to build resilience and reduce the recurrence of crises;

12. *Encourages* all relevant actors within the United Nations system, including the peacebuilding architecture, as appropriate, to consider ways in which they can coordinate their efforts, at the request of the Government of Haiti, to better contribute to the strengthening of national institutions and the implementation of strategies and programmes to support reconstruction and sustainable development;

13. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti until the conclusion of the 2019 session, with the purpose of following closely and providing advice on the long-term development strategy of Haiti to promote socioeconomic recovery, reconstruction and stability, with particular attention to the need to ensure coherence and sustainability in international support for Haiti, based on the long-term national development priorities, building upon the Strategic Plan for

[2] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

the Development of Haiti, and stressing the need to avoid overlap and duplication with respect to existing mechanisms;

14. *Expresses its satisfaction* to the Secretary-General for the support provided to the Advisory Group, and requests him to continue to support the activities of the Group adequately and within existing resources;

15. *Requests* the Advisory Group, in accomplishing its mandate, to continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for Haiti and Head of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti, the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, relevant United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and institutions, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Organization of American States, the Caribbean Community, the Union of South American Nations and the Inter-American Development Bank, other major stakeholders and civil society organizations, and in this regard welcomes the continuation of the dialogue between the members of the Advisory Group and the Organization of American States;

16. *Also requests* the Advisory Group to submit a report on its work, with recommendations, as appropriate, to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration at its 2019 session.

United Nations E/2018/L.19

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Agenda item 16
Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

Egypt:*, draft resolution**

Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 72/86 of 7 December 2017 and 72/240 of 20 December 2017,

Recalling also its resolution 2017/30 of 25 July 2017,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 252 (1968) of 21 May 1968, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980, 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981 and 2334 (2016) of 23 December 2016,

Recalling the resolutions of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, including resolutions ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003, ES-10/14 of 8 December 2003, ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Taking note of the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan, as transmitted by the Secretary-General,[1]

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* On behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China, taking into account also the provisions of General Assembly resolution 52/250 of 7 July 1998.

** In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] A/73/87-E/2018/69.

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[2] to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[3] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[3] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[4] and affirming that these human rights instruments are applicable and must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan,

Noting with concern that more than 70 years have passed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947 and 51 years since the occupation of Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, in 1967,

Taking note, in this regard, of Palestine's accession to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions as well as other international treaties,

Taking note also of General Assembly resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

Stressing the urgency of achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement on all tracks on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978, 1397 (2002) of 12 March 2002, 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003, 1544 (2004) of 19 May 2004, 1850 (2008) of 16 December 2008 and 2334 (2016), the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative[5] and the Quartet road map,[6] as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources, and expressing concern in that regard about the exploitation, endangerment and depletion of natural resources by Israel, the occupying Power, and Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, particularly as a result of settlement activities, which are illegal under international law and which, deplorably, continued during the reporting period,

Convinced that the Israeli occupation has gravely impeded the efforts to achieve environmentally sustainable development and a sound economic environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and expressing grave concern about the consequent deterioration of economic and living conditions,

Expressing alarm, in this regard, about the extremely high levels of unemployment in the Gaza Strip in particular, which remains at over 40 per cent, with youth unemployment reaching 60 per cent, exacerbated by the prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, and the continuing negative repercussions of the military operations in the Gaza Strip on economic and social infrastructure and living conditions,

Commending, despite the many constraints, including the obstacles imposed by the ongoing Israeli occupation, the efforts of the Palestinian Government to improve

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[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[3] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[5] A/56/1026-S/2002/932, annex II, resolution 14/221.

[6] S/2003/529, annex.

the economic and social situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in the areas of governance, the rule of law and human rights, livelihoods and productive sectors, education and culture, health, social protection, infrastructure and water,

Stressing the importance of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which aims, inter alia, at enhancing development support and assistance to the Palestinian people and strengthening institutional capacity in line with Palestinian national priorities,

Gravely concerned about the accelerated construction of settlements and implementation of other related measures by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan, in violation of international humanitarian law and relevant United Nations resolutions, and stressing that such illegal measures are main sources of other Israeli violations and discriminatory policies,

Encouraging all States and international organizations to continue to actively pursue policies to ensure respect for their obligations under international law with regard to all illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly Israeli settlements,

Taking note of the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,[7]

Expressing deep concern about the rising incidence of violence, harassment, provocation, vandalism and incitement in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular by illegal armed Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including homes, historic and religious sites and agricultural lands, and calling for accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated in this regard,

Gravely concerned by the serious repercussions on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people caused by Israel's construction of the wall and its associated regime inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and the resulting violation of their economic and social rights, including the rights to work, to health, to education, to property, to an adequate standard of living and to freedom of access and movement,

Recalling, in that regard, the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,[8] and General Assembly resolution ES-10/15, and stressing the need to comply with the obligations mentioned therein,

Deploring all loss of innocent civilian life and injury to scores of civilians, and calling upon all parties to fully respect international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, including for the protection of civilian life, as well as for the promotion of human security, the de-escalation of the situation, the exercise of restraint, including from provocative actions and rhetoric, and the establishment of a stable environment conducive to the pursuit of peace,

Expressing grave concern at the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of properties, including the increased demolition of homes, economic institutions, historical landmarks, agricultural lands and orchards, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular in connection with its

[7] A/HRC/22/63.

[8] See A/ES-10/273 and A/ES-10/273/Corr.1.

construction of settlements and the wall and confiscation of land, contrary to international law, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern also over the continuing forced displacement and dispossession of Palestinian civilians, including the Bedouin community, due to the continuing and intensifying policy of home demolitions, evictions and revocation of residency rights in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as measures to further isolate the city from its natural Palestinian environs, which have seriously exacerbated the already critical socioeconomic situation being faced by the Palestinian population,

Expressing grave concern further about ongoing Israeli military operations and policies of closures and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, the imposition of crossing closures, checkpoints and a permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the consequent negative impact on the socioeconomic situation of the Palestinian people, in particular the Palestine refugee population, which remains that of a humanitarian crisis,

Expressing grave concern, in particular, over the continuing crisis in the Gaza Strip as a result of the prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, stressing that the situation is unsustainable, as reflected in numerous reports, including the report of 26 August 2016 of the United Nations country team, entitled "Gaza: two years after", and calling in that regard for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) of 8 January 2009 with a view to ensuring the full opening of the border crossings for the sustained and regular movement of persons and goods, including humanitarian aid, commercial flows and construction materials, and emphasizing the need for security for all civilian populations,

Deploring the conflict in and around the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014 and the civilian casualties caused, including the killing of and injury to thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, women and the elderly, as well as the widespread destruction of or damage to thousands of homes and vital civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, water, sanitation and electricity networks, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, public institutions, religious sites and United Nations schools and facilities, as well as the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, and any violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in this regard,

Gravely concerned about the consequent prolonged and extensive negative impact of the military operations of July and August 2014, as well as the military operations between December 2008 and January 2009 and of November 2012, on economic conditions, the provision of social services and the social, humanitarian and physical living conditions of the Palestinian civilian population, including the Palestine refugee population,

Recalling, in that regard, the relevant United Nations reports, including those of the Economic and Social Council, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Human Rights Council,

Expressing deep concern about the short- and long-term detrimental impact of such widespread destruction and the hampering of the reconstruction process, by Israel, the occupying Power, on the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, where the humanitarian crisis continues to deepen, and calling in that regard for the immediate acceleration and fulfilment of the reconstruction process in the Gaza Strip with the assistance of the donor countries, including the disbursement of funds pledged at the Cairo

International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, held on 12 October 2014,

Gravely concerned about various reports of the United Nations and specialized agencies regarding the substantial aid dependency caused by prolonged border closures, inordinate rates of unemployment, widespread poverty and severe humanitarian hardships, including food insecurity and rising health-related problems, including high levels of malnutrition, among the Palestinian people, especially children, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern at the deaths of and injuries caused to civilians, including children, women and peaceful demonstrators, and emphasizing that the Palestinian civilian population must be protected in accordance with international humanitarian law,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians, and calling for the cessation of all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, and all firing of rockets,

Expressing deep concern that thousands of Palestinians, including many children and women, continue to be held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions, including unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, excessive use of administrative detention, including of children, lack of proper medical care and widespread medical neglect, including for ill prisoners, with the risk of fatal consequences, and denial of family visits and of due process, that impair their well-being, and expressing deep concern also about any ill-treatment and harassment of Palestinian prisoners and detainees and all reports of torture,

Conscious of the urgent need for the reconstruction and development of the economic and social infrastructure of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as the urgent need to address the humanitarian crisis facing the Palestinian people, including by ensuring the unimpeded provision of humanitarian assistance and the sustained and regular flow of persons and goods into and out of the Gaza Strip,

Recognizing the efforts being undertaken by the Palestinian Government, with international support, to reform, develop and strengthen its institutions and infrastructure, emphasizing the need to preserve and further develop Palestinian institutions and infrastructure, despite the obstacles presented by the ongoing Israeli occupation, and commending in this regard the ongoing efforts to develop the institutions of an independent Palestinian State, including through the implementation of the Palestinian National Policy Agenda: National Priorities, Policies and Policy Interventions (2017–2022),

Expressing concern about the risks posed to the significant achievements made, as confirmed by the positive assessments made by international institutions regarding readiness for statehood, including by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations and the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians, owing to the negative impact of ongoing instability and the financial crisis being faced by the Palestinian Government and the continued absence of a credible political horizon,

Commending, in that regard, the important work being done by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the donor community in support of the economic and social development of the Palestinian people in line with their national development and State-building plan, as well as the vital assistance being provided in the humanitarian field,

Affirming the need to support the Palestinian Government of national consensus in its assumption of full government responsibilities in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in all fields, as well as through its presence at Gaza's crossing points, and Palestinian national reconciliation, and emphasizing the need for the respect and preservation of the territorial integrity and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Calling upon both parties to fulfil their obligations under the road map in cooperation with the Quartet,

Aware that development and fostering healthy economic, social and environmental conditions are difficult under occupation and best promoted in circumstances of peace and stability,

1. *Calls for* the full opening of the border crossings of the Gaza Strip, in line with Security Council resolution 1860 (2009), to ensure humanitarian access as well as the sustained and regular flow of persons and goods and the lifting of all movement restrictions imposed on the Palestinian people, including those restrictions arising from ongoing Israeli military operations and the multilayered closure system, and for other urgent measures to be taken to alleviate the serious humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which is dire in the Gaza Strip, and also calls for compliance by Israel, the occupying Power, with all of its legal obligations under international humanitarian law and United Nations resolutions in that regard;

2. *Stresses* the need to preserve the territorial contiguity, unity and integrity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to guarantee the freedom of movement of persons and goods throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as to and from the outside world;

3. *Also stresses* the need to preserve and develop Palestinian national institutions and infrastructure for the provision of vital public services to the Palestinian civilian population and to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights, including economic and social rights;

4. *Demands* that Israel comply with the Protocol on Economic Relations between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed in Paris on 29 April 1994;[9]

5. *Calls upon* Israel to restore and replace civilian properties, vital infrastructure, agricultural lands and government institutions that have been damaged or destroyed as a result of its military operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

6. *Reiterates* the call for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access of 15 November 2005, particularly the urgent and uninterrupted reopening of all crossings into the Gaza Strip, which is crucial to ensuring the passage of foodstuffs and essential supplies, including construction materials and adequate fuel supplies, as well as to ensuring the unhindered access of the United Nations and related agencies and regular commercial flows necessary for economic recovery to and within the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and emphasizes the need for security for all civilian populations;

7. *Calls upon* all parties to respect the rules of international humanitarian law and to refrain from violence against the civilian population, in accordance with the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;[2]

[9] See A/49/180-S/1994/727, annex, entitled "Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area", annex IV.

8. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan to all their natural and economic resources, and calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, not to exploit, endanger or cause loss or depletion of those resources;

9. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its destruction of homes and properties, economic institutions and agricultural lands and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan, and to prevent Israeli settlers from perpetrating such illegal activities;

10. *Also calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to end immediately its exploitation of natural resources, including water and mining resources, and to cease the dumping of all kinds of waste materials in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threaten their natural resources, namely, the water, land and energy resources, and present a serious environmental hazard and health threat to the civilian populations, and also calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to remove all obstacles that obstruct the implementation of critical environmental projects, including the sewage treatment plants in the Gaza Strip, notably the provision of the electric power needed for the work of the northern Gaza emergency sewage treatment plant, and stresses in this regard the urgency of the reconstruction and development of water infrastructure, including the desalination facility project for the Gaza Strip;

11. *Calls for* the assistance necessary for the safe removal of all unexploded ordnance in the Gaza Strip, which endangers Palestinian lives and negatively impacts the environment, as well as reconstruction and development efforts, and welcomes the efforts exerted by the Mine Action Service of the United Nations to date;

12. *Reaffirms* that the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements and related infrastructure in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, are illegal and constitute a major obstacle to economic and social development and to the achievement of peace, and calls for the full cessation of all settlement and settlement-related activity, including full cessation of all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, legal status and character of the occupied territories, including in particular in and around occupied East Jerusalem, in compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2334 (2016), and international law, including the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War;

13. *Calls for* accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated by Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and recalls in this regard Security Council resolution 904 (1994) of 18 March 1994 and stresses the need for its implementation;

14. *Also calls for* urgent attention to the plight and the rights, in accordance with international law, of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons, and calls for efforts between the two sides for the further release of prisoners and detainees;

15. *Reaffirms* that Israel's ongoing construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, is contrary to international law and is isolating East Jerusalem, fragmenting the West Bank and seriously debilitating the economic and social development of the Palestinian people, and calls in that regard for full compliance with the legal obligations mentioned in the 9 July 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice[8] and in General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 and subsequent relevant resolutions;

16. *Calls upon* Israel to comply with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and to facilitate visits of

the Syrian citizens of the occupied Syrian Golan whose family members reside in their mother homeland, the Syrian Arab Republic, via the Qunaytirah entrance;

17. *Emphasizes* the importance of the work of United Nations organizations and agencies in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority;

18. *Welcomes and urges* further engagement by the Secretary-General and the United Nations Special Coordinator to assist, in cooperation with concerned partners, in the efforts to address urgent infrastructure, humanitarian and economic development needs, including through the implementation of projects endorsed by the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians;

19. *Expresses appreciation* to the Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that have provided and continue to provide economic and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, which has helped to ameliorate their critical economic and social conditions, and urges the continued provision of assistance commensurate with increased socioeconomic and humanitarian needs and in cooperation with official Palestinian institutions and consistent with the Palestinian National Development Plan;

20. *Reiterates* the importance of and need for increased and renewed international efforts on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (1978), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003), 1544 (2004), 1850 (2008) and 2334 (2016), and the Madrid Conference, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative[5] and the Quartet road map,[6] as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, in order to pave the way for the realization of the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders, and the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue to include in the report of the United Nations Special Coordinator an update on the living conditions of the Palestinian people, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies;

22. *Decides* to include the item entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan" in the agenda of its 2019 session.

United Nations E/2018/L.20–E/HLPF/2018/L.2

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Agenda item 5 (a)
High-level segment: ministerial meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council

High-level political forum on sustainable development
Convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council
9–18 July 2018
Agenda item 3
Adoption of the ministerial declaration

Draft ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2018 session of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council, submitted by the President of the Council, Marie Chatardová (Czechia)

Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2018 session of the Economic and Social Council on the annual theme "From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities"

Ministerial declaration of the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, on the theme "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies"

We, the Ministers and high representatives, having met at United Nations Headquarters in New York,

1. Reaffirm our commitment to effectively implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] for all people everywhere, ensuring that no one is left behind;

2. Stress that the 2030 Agenda is people-centred, universal and transformative and that its Sustainable Development Goals are indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental;

3. Reaffirm all the principles recognized in the 2030 Agenda and emphasize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. We express concern that at the global level poverty remains a principal cause of hunger and that the number of undernourished people has increased since

[1] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

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2015, to an estimated 815 million in 2016. Ending hunger and achieving food security is fundamental for sustainable development. We stress the importance of taking collective and targeted measures to eradicate poverty;

4. Reaffirm our commitment to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[2] which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda and supports, complements and helps to contextualise its means of implementation with concrete policies and actions. We welcome the third Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up and take into account its intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations;

5. Welcome the adoption of General Assembly resolution 72/279 entitled "Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system" and call for its full and early implementation in order to improve support to countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda;

6. Stress that three years into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda progress has been made across some of the Goals and targets, but it has not been at the pace required to achieve this ambitious agenda and has been uneven across countries and regions. We must urgently accelerate progress towards all targets, in particular those with a timeframe of 2020;

7. Emphasize that the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, has a central role in overseeing the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the global level. We recall the forum's 2016 and 2017 ministerial declarations. We look forward to the convening of the forum under the auspices of the Council in 2019 and the Assembly during its seventy-fourth session and recognize its importance for maintaining political momentum in support of the 2030 Agenda. We look forward to the quadrennial Global Sustainable Development Report, which will inform the 2019 forum and strengthen the science-policy interface at all levels;

8. Take note of the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals;[3]

9. Welcome the preparatory work that has been undertaken by the Economic and Social Council, including its functional and regional commissions, under the theme "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies" and recognize the contributions made by its segments and its forums. We recognize that the regional commissions provide useful opportunities for peer learning, reviews, sharing of best practices and discussion. We welcome the main outcomes of the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. We appreciate the input and expertise of all relevant thematic platforms and of all other stakeholders, as appropriate;

10. Commend the 46 countries[4] that delivered voluntary national reviews at the 2018 high-level political forum and emphasize the importance of sharing best practice and making assistance available for building national capacities for follow-up and review. The reviews highlight the importance of effective and

[2] General Assembly resolution 69/313.

[3] E/2018/64.

[4] Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Benin, Bhutan, Cabo Verde, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Ireland, Jamaica, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Namibia, Niger, Paraguay, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Switzerland, Togo, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Viet Nam.

coordinated government, including at the subnational and local levels, as appropriate, as well as evidence-based policymaking and innovation-driven development underpinned by high quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data. We encourage all countries to make use of the lessons learned from these reviews to enhance their domestic implementation and support for international implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and encourage all countries who have not yet done so to carry out a voluntary national review;

11. Stress that the commitment to leave no one behind is at the core of the 2030 Agenda and should be a guiding principle at all levels to shift the world onto a resilient and sustainable path. Leaving no one behind requires addressing the specific needs of people in vulnerable situations but also supporting their empowerment and participation in decision-making that affects their lives. Those whose needs are reflected in the 2030 Agenda include all children, youth, persons with disabilities (of whom more than 80 per cent live in poverty), people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous people, refugees and internally displaced persons, migrants and people living in areas affected by complex humanitarian emergencies, and people in areas affected by terrorism and conflict;

12. Recognize that sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security and that peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda recognizes the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights, including the right to development, on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions. Factors that give rise to violence, insecurity and injustice, such as inequality, corruption, poor governance and illicit financial and arms flows, are addressed in the 2030 Agenda. We must redouble our efforts to resolve or prevent conflict and to support post-conflict countries, including by ensuring that women have a role in peacebuilding and State-building. We call for further effective measures and actions to be taken, in conformity with international law, to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the right to self-determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which continue to adversely affect their economic and social development as well as their environment;

13. Emphasize that universal respect for human rights and human dignity, peace, justice, equality and non-discrimination is central to our commitment to leaving no one behind. Our commitment also includes respect for race, ethnicity and cultural diversity, and equal opportunity, permitting the full realization of human potential and contributing to shared prosperity. We are committed to a world that invests in its children and youth and in which every child grows up free from all forms of violence and exploitation. We envision a world in which every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment have been removed. We will strive for a world where young women and young men are key agents of change, supported by a culture of innovation, sustainability and inclusiveness, to enable a better future for themselves and their communities in a just, equitable, tolerant, open, creative and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met;

14. Emphasize our commitment to a world in which every country enjoys sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, leading to decent work for all. A world where innovation, industrialization and cooperation in productive capacity can accelerate economic growth. We affirm the need to enhance infrastructure connectivity with concrete actions and by maximizing synergies in infrastructure planning and development to achieve resilient societies;

15. Note that the 2030 Agenda is accepted by all countries and is applicable to all, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. We recognize that the most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States deserve special attention, as do countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict. There are also serious challenges within many middle-income countries;

16. Reaffirm our commitment to achieving gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls and the full realization of the human rights of all women and girls. To achieve inclusive, sustainable and resilient societies, we call for the leadership and full, effective and equal participation of women in decision-making in the design, budgeting, implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes that affect their livelihoods, well-being and resilience, and we recognize that unequal gender roles as reflected in women's disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work holds women back in the economy and other areas. We reiterate the urgency to ensure women's equal access to, and control over, land and natural resources. We reaffirm our commitment to preventing and responding to gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment and harmful practices. Our efforts will reinforce the linkages between Sustainable Development Goal 5 and the other Sustainable Development Goals. The systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is crucial;

17. Recognize that developing the human capital required to build sustainable and resilient societies must begin with investing in all children, adolescents and youth, safeguarding their rights and ensuring that from early childhood they grow up in a safe environment, free from all forms of violence, including neglect, abuse and exploitation and through the elimination of all harmful practices. In this regard, we note the Buenos Aires Declaration on Child Labour, Forced Labour and Youth Employment. As critical agents of change and torchbearers of the 2030 Agenda for current and future generations, we emphasize the importance of engaging and supporting the meaningful participation of children, adolescents and young people, particularly the most deprived and marginalized among them, in the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and of enabling their empowerment through information, knowledge and awareness of sustainable development. We commit to including youth perspectives in the development and assessment of strategies and programmes designed to address their specific needs and to ensure that youth education, skills development and decent employment are prioritized;

18. Emphasize that high quality, accessible, timely and reliable data and statistics are central to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We urge countries to further strengthen collaboration at the bilateral, regional and global levels for capacity-building and sharing of best practices for collecting, producing, disseminating, analysing and using quality data and statistics, disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts. We welcome the adoption of General Assembly resolution 71/313 on the work of the Statistical Commission;

19. Stress that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and its widespread, unprecedented impacts disproportionately burden the poorest and most vulnerable. We recognize that 2017 was one of the three warmest years on record and that the average temperature was 1.1 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. We recognize the need for an effective and progressive response to the urgent threat of climate change on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge. We welcome the Paris Agreement[5] and its early entry into force, encourage all its parties to fully

[5] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[6] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible. We recognize the synergies between the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. We acknowledge the importance of continued support for and international cooperation on adaptation and mitigation efforts and on strengthening resilience. We stress the necessity of adequate and predictable financial resources from a variety of sources, including public and private ones. We highlight the specific needs and special circumstances of developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change;

20. Reaffirm the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and recognize that action towards sustainable and resilient societies requires a disaster risk-informed approach. We call for integrated strategies that encourage coherence in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda and augmented efforts to integrate disaster risk management into national, subnational and local sustainable development strategies and plans, as appropriate;

21. Commit to embracing diversity in cities and human settlements, to strengthening social cohesion, intercultural dialogue and understanding, tolerance, mutual respect, gender equality, innovation, entrepreneurship, inclusion, identity and safety, and the dignity of all people, as well as fostering liveability and a vibrant urban economy. We also commit ourselves to taking steps to ensure that our local institutions promote pluralism and peaceful coexistence within increasingly heterogeneous and multicultural societies;

22. Reiterate that while our 2018 review emphasizes Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17, the integrated, indivisible and universal nature of the Goals makes it essential that we pay particular attention to leveraging synergies and co-benefits across all dimensions of sustainable development, while avoiding or minimizing trade-offs;

23. Note with concern that 844 million people lack basic water services, 2.1 billion people lack access to safe drinking water on premises that is available when needed and free from contamination, 4.5 billion lack access to safely managed sanitation, and 892 million still practise open defecation. Water pollution is affecting, among other things, water quality, public health and the environment and decreasing water availability in a world that has lost 70 per cent of its wetlands over the last century. Water stress is above 70 per cent in some countries and regions. Insufficient financing continues to prevent countries from meeting national water, sanitation and hygiene targets. Creating multi-stakeholder partnerships and ensuring quality public participation and integrated water resources management at all levels are key to effectively tackling these issues. We aim to increase water use efficiency across all sectors and water resource allocation, and emphasize the need to address challenges of water scarcity. We commit to improving cooperation across borders, in transboundary waters. To achieve universal and sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation and to end open defecation, substantial long-term investment and capacity-building will be required, particularly in rapidly growing urban areas. Strengthening the institutional capacity of local, subnational and national authorities, as appropriate, to manage and regulate sanitation systems is a high priority. In particular, we must pay special attention to ensuring access to sanitation and hygiene facilities, taking into account the specific needs of women and girls for menstrual hygiene management and of persons with disabilities, without compromising their safety and dignity. Political leadership to raise awareness of the matter's urgency, concrete actions and cooperation from all stakeholders are essential. We call on the

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

United Nations system to support countries in their efforts, according to national plans and priorities. We welcome the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028 and take note of other water-related reports and panels and the outcomes of the major water conferences;[7]

24. Note with concern that more than 1 billion people currently live without electricity, which prevents meaningful economic growth and job generation. Three billion people lack access to clean-cooking solutions and are exposed to dangerous levels of indoor air pollution, which cause an estimated 3.8 million premature deaths per year, with women and children most at risk. We are encouraged that the transformation of the world's energy systems is being accelerated by advances in technology, rapid declines in the cost of renewable energy, deployment of least-cost decentralized solutions, policy support, new business models and sharing of best practices. In this regard, we welcome the establishment of the International Solar Alliance as an international organization and note the continued work of the International Renewable Energy Agency. We emphasize the need for strengthened political will and increased levels of investment and action by all stakeholders to increase access, on mutually agreed terms, to clean energy research and technology. We commit to enhancing international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advances and cleaner fossil fuel technology, and to promoting investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology. We call upon Governments and all stakeholders to make clean-cooking solutions a priority and to close the electricity access gap by harnessing the potential of decentralized renewable energy solutions. We support solutions that are in line with people's needs and that support local economic activities such as the productive use of energy. We call upon Governments and other stakeholders to accelerate the pace of transition towards renewable energy, especially in end-use sectors such as transport, buildings, agriculture and industry, as well as the pace of energy efficiency across all sectors of the economy, including cooling and district heating. We reaffirm the commitment to rationalizing inefficient fossil fuel subsidies taking into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries. It is also critical that we scale-up capacity-building, research and development, including by sharing experiences and data and promoting innovation and investments in energy efficiency across all sectors of the economy, and that we support sustainable energy deployment, particularly in developing countries;

25. Acknowledge that owing to rapid urbanization, many cities and local authorities face challenges in providing adequate housing and resilient infrastructure to support their growing populations and are increasingly faced with the challenges of urban poverty, social exclusion and spatial inequality, over-crowding, conflict, crime and violence, vulnerability of infrastructure, poor basic service delivery, environmental degradation and pollution. Migratory and forced displacement flows further exacerbate these urban challenges. The vulnerability of cities to epidemics, disasters and to the impacts of climate change has increased because of rapid population growth and unplanned urbanization. We note with concern the number of people living in slums has increased to 881 million globally. In many cities populations still breathe air that falls short of the World Health Organization air quality guidelines value for particulate matter, leading to higher rates of

[7] Outcome document of the High-level Panel on Water, entitled "Making every drop count: an agenda for water action"; UN-Water, Sustainable Development Goal 6 synthesis report on water and sanitation; Global High-level Panel on Water and Peace; the eighth World Water Forum, held in Brasilia, Brazil, 18–23 March 2018; and the High-level International Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028 convened jointly by the United Nations and Tajikistan, Dushanbe, 20–22 June 2018.

non-communicable diseases and increasing the risk of premature mortality. Minimizing and effectively managing solid waste continues to be a challenge in many regions, with significant and adverse effects from uncollected waste in cities, including direct and indirect effects on the health of residents and the environment. We stress that cities can act as agents of positive change, catalysts for inclusion and powerhouses of equitable and sustainable economic growth. We reaffirm our commitment to full, timely and effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda. We will embrace innovation-driven development, digitalization and new technologies, especially information and communications technologies, in managing cities more effectively and holistically, including intelligent and resource efficient transport systems and new efficiencies in energy consumption and waste management. We further stress the need for strengthening the technical and managerial capacity of local authorities and cities for developing and delivering integrated, multisectoral, sustainable and risk-informed urban planning policies. Building resilience should be affordable with reduced economic incentives for unsustainable development. We call for the strengthening of normative and regulatory frameworks for disaster risk reduction in urban areas, including improving and enforcing land-use plans and building codes, and support the development of early warning systems in order to increase resilience, in particular for the most vulnerable countries. We stress the importance of long-term and integrated urban and territorial planning and design, underlining that cities should not be developed in isolation from the surrounding peri-urban and rural areas and should adopt sustainable, people-centred, age and gender responsive and integrated approaches to urban and territorial development;

26. Note with concern that decoupling economic growth from resource use continues to be challenging. While an increasing number of countries have put in place national policies and initiatives related to sustainable consumption and production, including corporate social responsibility, efforts need to be scaled up. Resource efficiency must be increased taking a life cycle approach, from reduction of the resources used in the extraction and production phases to reuse and recycling, including by deploying innovation in technology and standards, including on materials quality. We acknowledge the mid-term review of and progress achieved in the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, including the development of the One Planet Network, which is an important implementation mechanism for Sustainable Development Goal 12. We will further accelerate action on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes. We call on all stakeholders to adopt a sustainable-food systems approach and to develop effective strategies and innovations to reduce food losses and waste. Resilient, sustainable and inclusive food systems that protect, enhance and restore natural resources, sustain rural and urban livelihoods and provide access to nutritious foods from smallholder producers must be at the heart of efforts to promote sustainable consumption and production. We underline the challenges related to plastic waste, especially in the oceans. We will encourage sustainable lifestyles by providing reliable sustainability information to consumers, increasing education and awareness-raising and making it easier to rethink, reuse, recycle, recover and remake any products and services and prevent and reduce waste generation. We call for intensified efforts to achieve the targets for environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle by 2020 and beyond;

27. Emphasize that forests, wetlands, drylands and other natural ecosystems are essential for sustainable development, poverty alleviation and improved human well-being. We recognize that climate change, habitat loss, invasive alien species, overexploitation of natural resources, desertification, illegal logging, land-use change, illegal wildlife poaching, pollution and urbanization are global drivers of biodiversity loss worldwide. While protected areas in forest and terrestrial ecosystems

are on the rise and deforestation has slowed, other facets of terrestrial conservation continue to need accelerated efforts to conserve ecosystems and biodiversity and improve land productivity. We acknowledge that the success of the biodiversity-related targets depends on action from all sectors, such as agriculture, livestock, forestry, fishing, tourism, urbanization, the manufacturing and processing industries, health, infrastructure, mining and energy development, and cannot be achieved without mainstreaming biodiversity across these sectors and by it being included in national plans and local strategies. We commit to the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halting deforestation, restoring degraded forests and substantially increasing afforestation and reforestation globally by 2020. We will step up efforts on all fronts to tackle desertification, land degradation, erosion and drought, biodiversity loss and water scarcity, which are seen as major environmental, economic and social challenges for global sustainable development. We urge Governments, the private sector and civil society to scale up integrated landscape management approaches to land-use planning and decision-making within and across jurisdictions in a participatory and transparent way. We will increase efforts to facilitate investment in gender-responsive programmes that address problems of deforestation, land degradation, desertification, drought, sand and dust storms, biodiversity loss and water scarcity, including through implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, the United Nations forest instrument and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and scaled-up support by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. We will improve monitoring and reporting, including use of information and communications technology and remote sensing to tackle, in particular, illegal logging and wildlife trafficking, including poaching. We call on all United Nations Member States and observers to implement the strategic framework 2018–2030 for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa as a framework to achieve a land degradation-neutral world;

28. Recognize that a strengthening of the means of implementation and a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development is required to achieve the ambitious 2030 Agenda. While the upturn of the world economy has underpinned progress across all action areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, it remains vulnerable to financial and economic volatility and gains have not been equitable across countries and regions. We will take concrete and immediate action to create the necessary enabling environment at all levels for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. We devote ourselves collectively to the pursuit of global sustainable development and of mutually beneficial cooperation, which can bring meaningful gains to all countries and all parts of the world. We note progress in domestic resource mobilization, underscored by the principle of national ownership, but emphasize that large gaps in mobilization remain between many least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, middle-income countries and developed countries. We recognize the importance of fiscal management to enhance domestic resource mobilization and encourage that this be a priority for all types of development cooperation, including official development assistance and technical support. Efforts in international tax cooperation should be universal in approach and scope and fully take into account the needs and capacities of all countries, in particular least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and African countries. We note that the momentum around sustainable investment and finance, including impact investment, is growing, and we invite private companies to adopt sustainable practices that foster long-term value. We emphasize that a reallocation of a small percentage of assets under management towards long-term quality investment in sustainable development could make a significant contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We are encouraged by those few countries that have met or surpassed their commitment

to 0.7 per cent of official development assistance/gross national income and the target of 0.15–0.20 per cent of official development assistance/gross national income to least developed countries, and call on all official development assistance providers to fulfil their respective commitments. We welcome continued efforts to improve the quality, effectiveness and impact of development cooperation and other international efforts in public finance, including adherence to agreed development cooperation effectiveness principles. We welcome the contribution of South-South cooperation to poverty eradication and sustainable development. We reaffirm that South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement to, and not a substitute for, North-South cooperation. We recognize that it is also critical that disaster risk reduction measures, with due consideration to prevention, are incorporated into development assistance programmes and infrastructure financing, as appropriate, in line with the Sendai Framework. We will continue to promote a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, as well as meaningful trade liberalization. We note with concern that emerging debt challenges in developing countries have intensified, adding to the challenges of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We call for greater transparency, on the side of both debtors and creditors. Building capacity, strengthening policy frameworks and enhancing information sharing could help to avoid new episodes of debt distress. We recognize the need to assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief, debt restructuring and sound debt management, as appropriate. We will continue to strengthen international coordination and policy coherence to enhance global financial and macroeconomic stability and will also work to prevent and reduce the risk and impact of financial crises. We welcome progress in reforming international financial regulations and commit to implementing negotiated reforms while being watchful of unintended consequences and the need to balance the goals of access to credit with financial stability. We recognize that the international system's overall financial response to disasters is insufficient and that better ex ante disaster risk reduction and resilience-building mechanisms and quick-disbursing ex post instruments are required. We welcome the operationalization of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries in Turkey, by which the first Sustainable Development Goal target, target 17.8, has been achieved and the progress made towards operationalization of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, and encourage all development partners to provide financial and technical assistance to ensure their full and effective implementation;

29. Stress the critical role of science, technology and innovation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We acknowledge the positive transformative potential of technology, both existing and emerging, as well as its challenges and risks, which should be addressed by appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks and international cooperation, working with the private sector, academia, research institutions and other stakeholders. A substantial digital divide persists, both between and within countries and between women and men, and between girls and boys. We stress the need to act proactively to avoid exacerbating inequalities between and within countries in the coming years and that the introduction of new technologies should never blind us to our pledge to leave no one behind;

30. Endeavour to take continual, concrete and immediate steps to strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships. These partnerships will be important to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries. We underline that policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development require engagement by all stakeholders and

that they are key to building sustainable and resilient societies and for the achievement of sustainable development at all levels. In this regard, we recognize the role of the private sector as a critical development partner and as a leading enabler for achieving the Goals. The private sector can create decent jobs, promote innovative solutions for development challenges, improve skill sets in alignment with new technological breakthroughs and provide affordable goods and services for infrastructure and energy problems;

31. Pledge to step up our efforts and take the bold actions needed to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda and build sustainable and resilient societies everywhere, reaching the furthest behind first and ensuring that no one is left behind.